

Overview

Programme Code	35416
Programme Title	Urban Design
Awarding Institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Programme Type	Masters
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Programme Leader	Aliki Myrto Perysinaki
Link Tutor(s)	

Awards

Award Type	Award Description	Award Learning Outcomes
Target Award	Master of Arts - MA	See Learning Outcomes Below
Alternative Exit	Postgraduate Diploma - PD	<p>Articulate an understanding of the historical contexts, frameworks and critical approaches. Reflect critically on their own work and locate their practice within contemporary visual culture. Relate specialist knowledge and/or skills that help facilitate the understanding or practice of urban design. Evaluate innovative and visionary urban design theories and precedents in the context of the project work. Analyse contemporary urban design themes through in depth research and the intelligent development of a critical argument. Synthesise the above knowledge and skills in the production of an urban design strategy for the redevelopment of a substantial piece of cityscape. Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively with peers and external partners by exercising effective networking, communication and organisational awareness. Articulate an appropriate understanding of the conceptual frameworks and critical approaches that inform the production, publication and marketing of contemporary design projects through the formulation of innovative commercial and/or practical outcomes. Meaningfully apply acquired specialist knowledge and/or skills in associated project work. Present an advanced proposal or project outcome that acknowledges the professional context of a specific collaborative partnership.</p>
Alternative Exit	Postgraduate Certificate - PC	<p>Articulate an understanding of the historical contexts, frameworks and critical approaches that inform the practice of contemporary Art & Design within a named discipline. Reflect critically on their own work and locate their practice within contemporary visual culture. Evaluate innovative and visionary urban design theories and precedents in the context of the project work. Analyse contemporary urban design themes through in depth research and the intelligent development of a critical argument. Synthesise the above knowledge and skills in the production of an urban design strategy for the redevelopment of a substantial piece of cityscape.</p>

Alternate Award Names

External Benchmarks

Subject Benchmark Statement

PGT-Architecture (2010)

Programme Offering(s)

Mode of Study, Mode of Delivery	Intake Month	Teaching Institution	Programme Length
Full-Time, Face to Face	September	LJMU Taught	1 Years

Aims and Outcomes

Educational Aims of the Programme

In a world of rapidly rising and migrating urban populations there is a palpable need for smarter, more inclusive approaches to city planning, adaptation and spatial design. Based within the School's Architecture subject area, this programme aims to enable practitioners and scholars to transform the field of urban design through critical thinking and creative practice. Nourished by the association with the University's European Institute for Urban Affairs and the links with the Liverpool Biennial, which every two years delivers an international programme of exhibitions and projects that lead to a rediscovery of the city, the course positions Liverpool in each centre, as example of a creative city with a rich heritage of civic design and creative urban engagement. It also has connections with nationally recognised urban design practitioners, local authority planning and urban design departments and international academic partners. This is a studio based programme, linking theory, practice and the urban experience. Learning takes place predominantly through the creative and critical exploration of research focused urban design projects. The course's graduates will be employable in professions in a range of fields related to the growth and liveability of cities.

The programme aims to confront students with contemporary and future urban issues such as climate change, biodiversity and landscape urbanism, healthy living, intensification and population growth, affordable housing in order to develop urban design skills that apply to a range of locations and issues and to enable them to create liveable places for tomorrow. The intention is to provide them with:

1. Knowledge of the historical and cultural context of urban design as a field of inquiry and practice.

2. Understanding and the ability to evaluate change in physical, economic, social and cultural milieu in the context of inner-city sites.

3. Understanding of the master planning process and the use of design codes, in combination with the implementation of urban theories to foster holistic consideration of methods and practices of urban design in the UK and internationally.

4. Understanding of the nature and processes of urban residential development and neighbourhood design.

5. Appreciation and incorporation of principles of sustainable development into urban projects.

6. The ability to engage in urban design discourse and practice within multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural contexts.

7. The ability to appraise and resolve issues identified in the exploration of regeneration and development proposals for towns and cities.

8. The ability to creatively generate, evaluate and communicate urban design proposals across multiple scales.

9. The ability to explore global real-life planning and development issues in-person through live projects.

Learning Outcomes

Code	Description
PLO1	Reflect critically on their own work and locate their practice within contemporary visual culture.
PLO2	Articulate an understanding of the historical contexts, frameworks and critical approaches.
PLO3	Relate specialist knowledge and/or skills that help facilitate the understanding or the practice of urban design.
PLO4	Evaluate innovative and visionary urban design theories and precedents in the context of the project work.
PLO5	Explore and apply a contemporary urban design theme through in depth research and intelligent development of a critical argument or creative piece of work.
PLO6	Synthesise the above knowledge and skills in the production of an urban design strategy for the redevelopment of a substantial piece of cityscape.
PLO7	Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively with peers and external partners by exercising effective networking, communication and organisational awareness.
PLO8	Present a lucid Major Project proposal, coherently outlining its scope, methodology and expected outcomes.
PLO9	Coherently present a conclusive and substantial body of specialist research either as scholarly and illustrated work or other form developed with the agreement of the Assessment Panel.
PLO10	Articulate an appropriate understanding of the conceptual frameworks and critical approaches that inform the production, publication and marketing of contemporary design projects through the formulation of innovative commercial and/or practical outcomes.
PLO11	Meaningfully apply acquired specialist knowledge and/or skills in associated project work.
PLO12	Collate and present the associated research, analysis and design proposal to a professional standard.
PLO13	Evaluate the results of individual research through engaging in critical debate with peers and assessors.
PLO14	Present an advanced proposal or project outcome that acknowledges the professional context of a specific collaborative partnership.

Programme Structure

Programme Structure Description

The programme is delivered during one whole year in full-time mode. Both modes start in September with a significant period of time taken up with independent study. In full-time mode students complete 4x30 credit modules between Semesters 1 and 2 and 1x60 credit module between Semester 2 and Summer.

For the full time version of the course, there are two modules in Semester 1 and Semester 2, and one module during the Summer. Semester 1 7131MAS Practice & Legislation - Understanding the designer's role in the contemporary built environment 7121MAS Urban Design 1 - Creative urbanism and regeneration within an analytical and theoretical context

Semester 2 7022MAU Sustainable Urban Design - The evaluative and reflective development of sustainable communities 7111MAS* Research & Theory 1 - Theoretical studies and research methods 7005MAU Final Major Project - (Urban Design)

Students who started the programme in September 2020 will continue to follow the module structure offered in the previous version of this programme as below 7003MALSAD Research & Practice 1 (30 credits) 7004MALSAD Collaborative Practice (30 credits) 7006MAUD Studio Practice (30 credits) 7005MAUD Major Project (60 credits) 7022MAUD Research & Practice 2 (30 credits) Full Time Students must choose option module Studio Practice 7003MAUD. Part Time Students must choose option module Studio Practice 7006MAUD

An alternative exit award of Postgraduate Diploma in Urban Design will be offered to students who do not achieve a pass in the Masters Project but have gained 120 credits within the programme. An alternative exit award of Postgraduate Certificate in Urban Design will be offered to students who have gained 60 credits at the point when they exit the course.

Programme Structure - 180 credit points

Level 7 - 180 credit points

Level 7 Core - 180 credit points

CORE

[MODULE] 7005MAU Final Major Project - Urban Design Approved 2022.02 - 60 credit points

[MODULE] 7022MAU Sustainable Urban Design: the evaluation and reflective development of sustainable communities Approved 2022.01 - 30 credit points

[MODULE] 7111MAS Theory and Research 1: theoretical studies and research methods Approved 2022.01 - 30 credit points

[MODULE] 7121MAS Urban Design 1: Creative urbanism and regeneration within an analytical and theoretical context Approved 2022.01 - 30 credit points

[MODULE] 7131MAS Practice and Legislation: Understanding the designer's role in the contemporary built environment Approved 2022.01 - 30 credit points

Module specifications may be accessed at <https://proformas.ljmu.ac.uk/Default.aspx>

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Teaching is predominantly through a series of briefings, thematic lectures, seminars and (group and individual) tutorials. Learning is consolidated through hands on skills workshops in technical areas within the School or Faculty. Students formally present urban research, analysis and design work at key stages for formative feedback and peer review from tutors and external critics. The course is primarily studio based and there is an emphasis on independent learning. Students are encouraged to respond to the integrative studio culture, and develop an atmosphere where they will benefit from each other's diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

Three main streams structure teaching, learning and assessment, with emphasis in the holistic consideration of theory, design, practice and legislation aspects.

The course is structured so that theoretical investigations inform design queries. Design starts with group work involving MArch students, and the individual input follows. That design work is revisited through design reviews and tutorial discussions in order to reflect on the development of sustainable communities. The work is presented via drawings, sketches, essays and reports and happens during Semester 1 and Semester 2 (in full time and part time participation to the course).

Students participate to real life projects too, working in groups with local stakeholders and non-profit organisations acting as 'clients' where they have to develop a brief, provide design alternatives, present and discuss them with the client. This allows to develop pragmatic reports with design work as well as costing and safety considerations; hence responding to practical and legislative facets of the profession.

Finally, students are given the tools to conduct research via methodological tools and presentations on salient aspects of Urban Design. Whilst it is impossible to cover all historic or theoretical knowledge, the intention is to tackle current issues, using historic references to nourish the investigations that students are invited to undertake. They are then free to decide whether the culmination of the above will materialise as a dissertation or a documented design report, hence allowing orientation either towards theory (via design) or design (via theory).

Opportunities for work related learning

All students are encouraged to identify and evaluate their programme specific, personal and transferable skills in an environment external to LJMU. The engagement with the collaborating institutions provides work-related experience and insight into the evaluation and production of urban design strategies and proposals in a local and international context.

Entry Requirements

Type	Description
Alternative qualifications considered	Applications from non-standard applicants, including mid-career professional candidates with practical experience are welcomed. In such circumstances applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have the appropriate knowledge and skills to degree standard and their application will be considered by the programme team.

Alternative qualifications considered	Application to study a Master's level qualification within Urban Design will be considered in the light of the ability to meet the following criteria: A letter of candidature/personal statement explaining the motivation to study Urban Design and any relevant experience within previous studies or professional career. A good first degree in a related discipline (minimum Degree classification 2:1). Given the design driven nature of the course, the applicant needs to demonstrate competence in design, hence it is advised to include a design portfolio. Applications from candidates with lower degrees or an alternative subject will be considered upon provision of a suitable portfolio and/or evidence of relevant work experience. Up to two references (at least one) either by academic staff or from previous/current employment, explaining how the referee knows the applicant, as well as their assessment of the skills, experience, work ethos and suitability for the programme. Sufficient level of written and verbal communication in English. Applicants may be asked to follow an interview process, that can be arranged physically or digitally in order to demonstrate sufficient level of knowledge to embark upon the programme and to complete it within the time limits.
Other international requirements	Non-UK students will be required to demonstrate command of English Language at IELTS 6.5, (with a minimum of 5.5 in each component) or equivalent qualification. Applicants who have studied and successfully passed a UK-based degree within the previous 24 months are exempt from such requirements.

Extra Entry Requirements