

## MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: <b>Dissertation and Master's Presentation</b>	Level: 7	Credit Value: 60
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Module code: ARA702	Cost Centre: GAAA	JACS3 code W200
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered: 1 & 2	With effect from: October 2014
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<b>Office use only:</b> To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: October 2014 Date revised: - Version no: 1
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Existing/New: New	Title of module being replaced (if any):
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Originating Academic Department: Creative Industries	Module Leader: Alan Hughes
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Module duration (total hours) 600	Status: core/option/elective Core (identify programme where appropriate):
Scheduled learning & teaching hours 17	
Independent study hours 583	
Placement hours	

Programme(s) in which to be offered: MA Architectural Interior Design MA Garden Design	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels):
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**Module Aims:**

To expand knowledge and theoretical awareness of a specific or specialised area of interior design or cognate subject.

To apply advanced research methods and a wide variety of information sources in the development of a sophisticated understanding of theory and practices.

To relate a specialist area of study to the wider field of environmental design and emerging fields allied to the specialist area.

To enable students to produce a written or design dissertation that is critical and analytical in approach and informed and innovative in conclusion

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this module, students will be able to ..

1. Develop and critically analyse a negotiated subject to be agreed with the supervisor and generate a clear programme of research directed towards a defined end.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of relevant published research and augment, where appropriate, with additional sources of information such as, case histories, site visits, plans and associated documentation.
3. Reflect upon the selection, organisation, and integration of researched material to the emerging knowledge the subject, presenting a clear and informed argument and justifiable conclusion, in the presentation of their writing and practices.
4. Critically relate to the research experience to develop and express a personal view of the subject area relating to their work and personal design philosophy.

Key skills for employability

- Written, oral and media communication skills
- Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
- Information technology skills and digital literacy
- Research skills
- Numeracy

**Assessment:**

Students are required to negotiate and agree a topic for research and analysis and to provide a written submission or a written submission with a related body of practical work.

The written submission (dissertation) may be up to be 15,000 words on a subject agreed in advance with dedicated tutors and the Course Director and will be described as submission by dissertation.

A student negotiating a body of related practical work will be permitted to submit a smaller word count dissertation of minimum 5000 words with a notional learning time given to practice of 400 hours – this will be described as submission by project.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1,2,3,4	Coursework	100%		15000

### **Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

The research module is delivered through a series of tutorials following a module launch outlining the requirements of the dissertation stage. The module seeks to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical application of skills. To do this, the student will be required to negotiate and agree a topic for research and analysis and whether the learning outcomes are to be achieved through a written submission or a written submission with a related body of practical work. The dissertation may be up to be 15,000 words on a subject agreed in advance with dedicated tutors and the Course Director and will be described as submission by dissertation. A student negotiating a body of related practical work will be permitted to submit a smaller word count dissertation of minimum 5000 words with a notional learning time given to practice of 400 hours – this will be described as submission by project. Both submission by dissertation and project will be assessed against the same learning outcomes as theory and practice are fused. This proposal and negotiation stage will come under the control of the Course Committee for final approval and ratification.

Regular tutorial and seminar support is given throughout the Course by the supervising tutors. Students are required to pursue their research largely as directed study and independent learning, with supervisors identified in relation to their specialist subjects and specific interests.

Students may amend, vary and change the subject area of their submission whilst in the initial stages of research. They are advised to consult one or more of the MA tutors in relation to any proposed change which must be recorded in a written tutorial record. It is made clear to students that the research undertaken in any given area may lead to a refinement of further investigation that can re-direct the thrust of the investigation.

### **Syllabus outline:**

Stage 1: Preparation of Dissertation proposal, identifying a suitable title and subject areas. September following completion of the PG Dip Stage.

Stage 2: Meeting of Course Committee to consider proposals – September / October.

Stage 3 Preparation of synopsis – October. Research period with tutorial support

Stage 4: Tutorial period programmes to be defined on individual basis, M level independent study. Engagement with tutor/supervisor. Submission of progress report - December.

Stage 5: First Draft February.

Stage 6: Tutorial/self-directed study period.

Stage 7: Submission at end of April

Stage 9: Marking and Moderation - May

Stage 10: External examiner review / Module and Progression Board End May

**Bibliography:**

Potter, S. (2011), *Doing Postgraduate Research*, Sage-Open University.

Preece, R. (1994), *Starting Research: An Introduction to Academic Research and Dissertation Writing*, Pinter.

Van Wageningen, R.K. (1991), *Writing a Thesis: Substance and Style*, Prentice Hall.

Other indicative reading:

Bosworth, D.P. (1992), *Citing your References*, Underhill Press.

Madsen, D. (1983), *Successful Dissertations and Theses*, Jossey-Bass.

Pasons, C.J. (1973), *Theses and Project Work*, Allen and Unwin.

Rudestam, K., Newton, R. (1995) *Surviving your dissertation*, Sage Publications.

Swetnam, D. (1995), *Writing a Thesis, How to Books*.

Turabian, K.J. (1982), *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers. Thesis and Dissertations*, London Heineman.