

Module specification

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Refer to guidance notes for completion of each section of the specification.

Module Code	ARA701
Module Title	Research Methodology
Level	7
Credit value	20
Faculty	FACE
HECoS Code	100583 AID / 100590 GD
Cost Code	GAAA

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MA Architectural Interior Design	Core
MA Garden Design	Core

Pre-requisites

N/A

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	20 hrs
Placement tutor support	20 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	10 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	30 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	80 hrs
Placement / work based learning	20 hrs
Guided independent study	100 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs



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Initial approval date	03/09/2019
With effect from date	03/09/2019
Date and details of revision	04/07/2024 – updated breakdown of module hours, derogations and indicative syllabus.
Version number	4

Module aims

The aim of this module is to enable students to develop a critical understanding of research through the evaluation of methods and theories relevant to a particular design discipline. Students will be able to demonstrate the evaluation of a range of methods to develop, collect, structure and present existing advanced knowledge in a self-selected specified subject area. Through exposure to the seminar programme the student will conduct a critical review of existing knowledge in order to consider potential material for dissertation stage and to this end will produce a written proposal which will consider their existing knowledge and that which they wish to investigate further. This self-directed systematic approach to the identification of a suitable project topic will facilitate the formulation of the plan and methodology in preparation for the dissertation stage

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Evaluate and apply primary and secondary research theory
2	Reflect critically upon, prioritise and evaluate relevant existing published researched material
3	Justify research methodologies to meet the challenge of the MA Dissertation stage
4	Develop a personal bibliographical resource to inform and support continual professional development

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

The student will be expected to provide critical evaluations of the seminar material detailing a comprehensive understanding of primary and secondary sources. The sources of information will be expected to be collated then presented as an appendix. Notation and reflection is expected to be evidenced through words, diagrams and sketches as is appropriate to the development of advanced knowledge. The written work will explore and consolidate the theoretical basis on which subsequent work will be founded.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2	Coursework	60



2	3, 4	Written Assignment	40
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Derogations

Full time Masters programmes shall be completed normally in no more than 18 months by taking 3 trimesters (Part 1 trimester 1: September to January; trimester 2: February to June, then Part 2 trimester 3 September to January). A student who fails to complete the programme at the first attempt shall be required to complete all requirements within the normal registration period, that is, 24 months'.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Lectures, seminars, visits and workshops will require students to critically analyse examples of design focused research through written and further exploratory means. This module operates through a series of tutor led presentations that discuss theories underpinning the practice of research activity. The students are expected to contribute to the seminars linked to the presentations and to explore and develop links and relevant application of theory to their own practice with design outcomes evidenced and reflected in the practical projects. The emphasis shifts from tutor led seminars to student led seminars as the potential for the research methods to inform practice develops in the student mind. On the basis that research skills are common to most areas of academic activity, this module is delivered to a combined group of MA students from both faculties. Initially, students are required to submit a written analysis and critique of an existing research paper, looking specifically at the methodology involved. In the latter stages of the module students produce a written proposal of potential dissertation subjects, showing how they intend to structure and execute the work. They are also required to include a prioritised literary review.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Based on a critical analysis of precedents and approaches to design research, students will be expected to develop their own research methods applicable to Architectural Interior Design and Garden Design.

Indicative content

Critical Writing – analysis of the academic paper

Evaluation of past and contemporary design methodology and theory

Critical awareness and analysis of relevant texts and processes

Dissertation Proposal – independent knowledge acquisition

Between 7,000-9,000 word count across 6 / 7 assignments, as below reviewed annually.

To ensure currency and relevance this module is reviewed annually as a response to the availability of new research, investigation and publications.

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update. Please *ensure correct referencing format is being followed as per University referencing guide.*



Essential Reads

Pallasmaa, J: (2012) *The Eyes of the Skin*, 3rd Edn. Wiley-Academy 97801119941286

Sparke, P. Brown, P. et al (Ed) (2018) *Flow: Interior, Landscape and Architecture in the Era of Liquid Modernity*. Bloomsbury, London. 978147256799

Other indicative reading

Bachelard, G. (2014) *The Poetics of Space*. Penguin, London.

Hollis, E. (2013) *The Memory Palace: A Book of Lost Interiors*. Portobello Books. London.

Moore, C, Mitchell W & Turnbull, W. (1989) *The Poetics of Gardens*. MIT Press U.S.A.

Calvino, I. (1997) *Invisible Cities*. Vintage, London.

Potter, S: (2011) *Doing Post Graduate Research*. 2nd Edn. Sage, London.

Turner, Tom: (2014) *Landscape Design History and Theory* (Gardenvisit.com) (amazon digital)

