

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MA Landscape Architecture (with conversion year)
2	Course Code	PT1208
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	The Landscape Institute International Federation of Landscape Architects

6	Course Description
	<p>This MA in Landscape Architecture with a conversion year enables applicants who do not have a degree in Landscape Architecture an opportunity to take the first steps in becoming a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute.</p> <p>This two-year conversion Masters has two stages. Stage one, year 1, covers the foundation modules, introducing you to design skills and techniques used to respond to the project briefs. In stage two, year 2, you will be joining students who have an accredited degree in Landscape Architecture. The MA in Landscape Architecture promotes solutions to environmental and community problems in a creative studio environment. The project profiles provide an opportunity to work closely with Landscape Institute policy and demonstrate the authority of Landscape Architecture as a design tool that reshapes our designed ecologies and designed geographies across the full range of scales.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>Year 1 is structured to develop key design and communication skills that support all aspects of projects in a studio-based learning environment which is underpinned by landscape history and theory lectures. Students will learn that landscape is a sequence of interrelated designed environments connected by land, ecology, water, climate and infrastructure, sitting in a cultural context that extends from parish to global, political and economic systems. The design skills will develop from process-led narratives using industry standard visual communication and analysis techniques, which include digital mapping and three-dimensional modelling, model making, virtual reality, visualisation, rendering, drawing, and design across the range of scales.</p> <p>Year 2 builds on the foundation of knowledge and skills acquired in year 1 and will help you develop further the creative, artistic, technical and intellectual abilities through a diverse range of design projects that explore contemporary issues and problems, which grow in scale and complexity. The format of studio learning is continued with an increased emphasis on research and experimentation. These include research-led design projects relating to public health and</p>

well-being, habitat creation and biodiversity, climate change, settlement design, food security, and large infrastructure schemes like the High Speed 2 (HS2) and the West Midlands National Park.

Our modules, including our new **Design for Climate Change** module, provide a fascinating forum for systems scale interventions, innovation and exploration of new sustainable approaches to respond to climate change emergency, biodiversity loss and for the planning and designing of resilient places and communities. Exploring these themes and issues is central to our common future and our Landscape Architecture course is very well placed to progress employability skills that will position you at the forefront of these subjects.

Our links to industry, local authorities and our Co.Lab partners offer an opportunity for being involved in the complex nature and the challenges of being a landscape architect in the real world. These extend to collaborating with local stakeholders and institutions and working alongside colleagues across the University on projects that demonstrate the authority of Landscape Architecture in improving the quality of future urban and rural living.

Employment opportunities and flexible learning

The course has very strong links with regional and national employers, with many students opting to work in practice and study part-time after year one. To help with managing the MA with your existing commitments, we have structured the course to provide some flexibility so that you have the option to complete the MA in two years by dedicating one day a week in your first year and two days a week in your second year. Alternatively, you can complete the course over three years by following the one day a week model.

Professional standards

Each year, the course is assessed to evaluate how it meets the accreditation standards set by the Landscape Institute, especially how the curriculum prepares employment-ready students. To ensure the academic rigor and creative flair is maintained,

Our MA Landscape Architecture courses are fully accredited by the Landscape Institute and recognised by the International Federation of Landscape Architects. We are also an active member of the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools.

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Masters of Arts Landscape Architecture	6 and 7	300
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Diploma Landscape Architecture	7 (stage 2)	120

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	City Centre	2 years: Year 1 one day per week Year 2 two days per week	PT1208
	Part Time	City Centre	3 years: One day per week	PT1085

10	Entry Requirements
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/

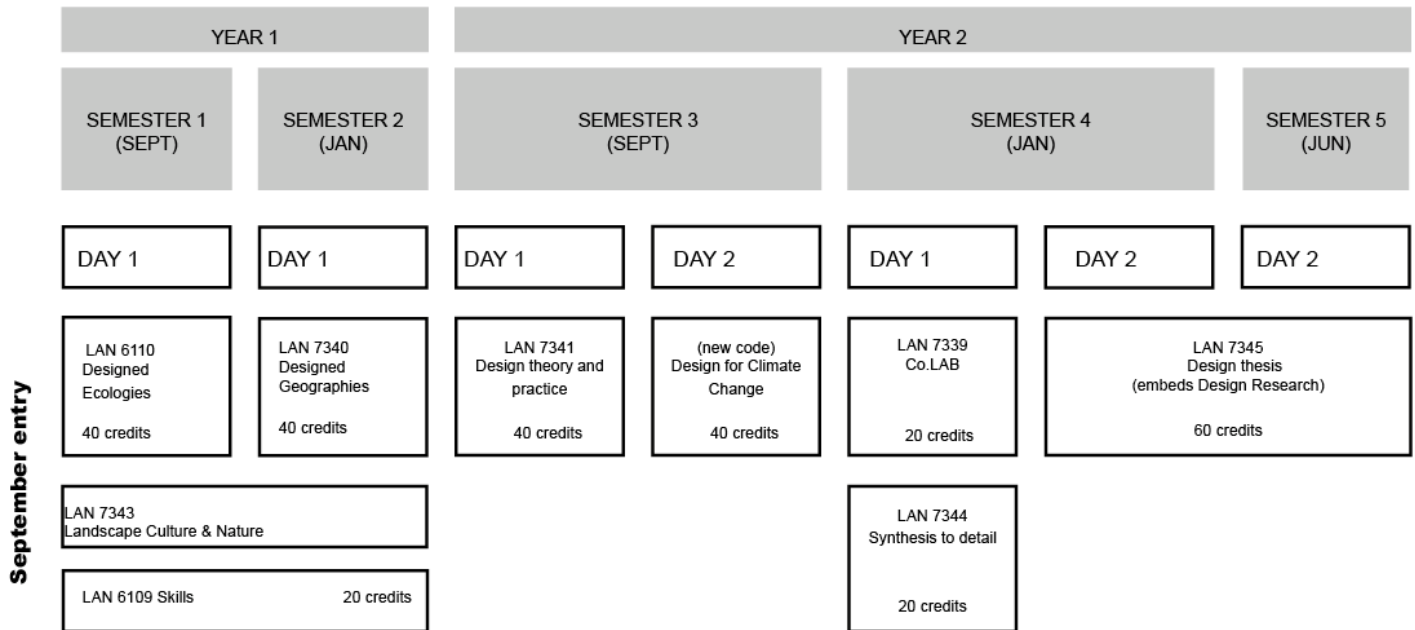
11	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge & Understanding
1	Design theories and processes and their application to design proposals in space and time, including research and reflective analysis.
2	Environmental systems and natural processes and their application and deployment in design proposals to achieve environmentally responsible and visually appropriate solutions in complex spatial and temporal situations.
3	The histories, practices and cultural context of landscape design, the analysis and use of precedents in design practice.
4	The properties of construction and planting materials and their use in design proposals.
	Cognitive & Intellectual Skills
5	To engage students with the current research in the discipline currently being undertaken within the Birmingham School of Architecture and Design.
6	To provide a supportive learning environment for experimentation and risk taking that enables students to develop their creative and critical judgement of their own explorations of the process.
7	Critical thinking and reflection – the ability to understand and employ, criticise and evaluate new ideas, articulate valid methods and alternative approaches.
8	Communication – the ability to communicate ideas clearly and effectively in a variety of professional contexts and to a range of different audiences, using appropriate media and techniques and the ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing.
	Practical & Professional Skills

9	To give students the confidence and enthusiasm to work within and take on the challenges of an expanding and increasingly diverse profession.
10	To provide a challenging and stimulating framework within which students can consolidate and take forward to a high level of design excellence using a variety of communication techniques to articulate design proposals in a variety of media and forms to a diverse audience.
11	To develop skills in the design and specification of construction of hard landscapes and planting proposals.
12	Provide skillsets in the inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary interface between the different areas of the profession, and between landscape architecture and other professions.
	Key Transferable Skills
13	Develop the ability to define and analyse problems and issues, think independently, exercise judgement and develop creative and innovative solutions.
14	Team and independent working – ability to work effectively both independently and collaboratively with others to achieve outcomes.
15	Self/career management skills – the ability to plan, reflect and review own learning and achievements identify opportunities for development; set personal and professional goals; ability to prioritise and manage own time.
16	Information technology – awareness of and ability to use IT packages and tools commonly encountered in the professional workplaces.

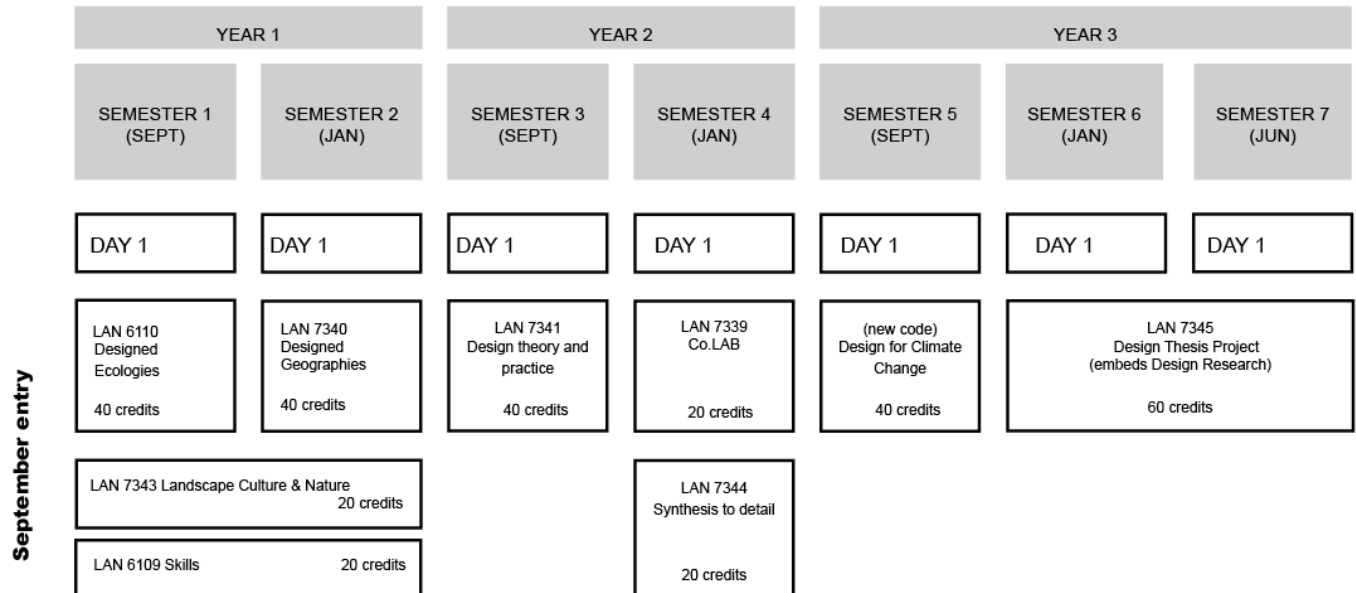
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12a	<p>Level 6:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course, a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 60 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>LAN 6109</td> <td>Visual Communication and Representational Skills</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAN 6110</td> <td>Designed Ecologies</td> <td>40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course, a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 240 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>LAN 7340</td> <td>Designed Geographies</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAN 7343</td> <td>Landscape Culture and Nature</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAN 7341</td> <td>Design Theory and Practice</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAN</td> <td>Design for Climate Change</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAN 7339</td> <td>Collaborative Practice (Co.Lab)</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAN 7344</td> <td>Synthesis to Detail</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAN 7345</td> <td>Thesis Design Project</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	LAN 6109	Visual Communication and Representational Skills	20	LAN 6110	Designed Ecologies	40	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	LAN 7340	Designed Geographies	40	LAN 7343	Landscape Culture and Nature	20	LAN 7341	Design Theory and Practice	40	LAN	Design for Climate Change	40	LAN 7339	Collaborative Practice (Co.Lab)	20	LAN 7344	Synthesis to Detail	20	LAN 7345	Thesis Design Project	60
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12b Structure Diagram

Two-year model (Full-time)



Three-year model



13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Year 1 (120 credits)

Workload

30% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	360
Directed Learning	600
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	

Year 2 (180 credits)

Workload

24% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	434
Directed Learning	526
Private Study	840
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	

