

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	Master of Research (MRes) in Built Environment
2	Course Code	PT1849 / PT1850
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	NA

6	Course Description
	The Master of Research (MRes) in Built Environment is a flexible and comprehensive research training course designed to provide graduates with the skills and expertise necessary for a career in research, academia, or industry within the built environment sector. This course offers high-quality postgraduate training in research methods and practice, along with the development of transferable skills that will advance your knowledge in areas such as urban design, project management, sustainability, technology and interdisciplinary collaboration. Throughout the course, you will engage in advanced research methods, from developing initial research ideas and proposals to applying contemporary research philosophies and methodologies. This process is designed to prepare you for further doctoral-level study, publishing your research or demonstrating the skills required for a career in the built environment sector. You will also have the opportunity to specialise in a chosen area within the built environment, benefiting from the multidisciplinary expertise of our research team. The MRes in Built Environment course is structured to provide a balance of independent research and taught elements, ensuring a rigorous research-focused experience. Central to the course is a major research thesis, where you will undertake a substantial independent research project within a specific area of the built environment. This thesis is subject to a viva voce examination by an academic panel consisting of an independent internal examiner and your supervisor, maintaining the high academic standards expected of research degrees. In addition to the thesis, you will engage in taught elements that provide essential research training, with the opportunity to specialise in areas aligned with your research topic. These taught modules are designed to support the development of your research skills and are tailored to the specialism you choose to pursue in your thesis. The course is ideal for graduates from diverse academic backgrounds, including architecture, construction management, surveying, planning, real estate, engineering and other built environment disciplines. Key areas of focus include advanced research methodology, data analysis and the development of independent research skills within a specific area of the built environment. Most of the course is dedicated to conducting original research under the guidance of experienced supervisors, allowing you to focus deeply on a specialised topic. While some structured learning on research methods is included, the emphasis is on autonomous research, enabling you to engage critically with your chosen field. You will also develop essential skills in presenting your findings through professional outputs such as conference papers, grant proposals and peer-reviewed journal articles. This approach ensures that you gain expertise in both your subject area and the research process, preparing you for successful careers in academia, research or industry. With a growing demand for skilled researchers in the built environment, this MRes course prepares you to make meaningful contributions to the sector, while also supporting your

	professional development and employability. You will have access to the School's extensive industry networks and research groups, providing valuable opportunities to work with external partners and enhance your future career prospects.
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Research in Built Environment	Level 7	180
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	PGCert in Built Environment	Level 7	60

8	Variation from the University Regulations
	This course has approved variations to the University's Academic Regulations. These can be accessed via the student contract page: https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-contract

9	Delivery Patterns			
Mode(s) of Study		Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time September		City Centre	1 year	PT1850
Full Time January		City Centre	1 year	PT1850
Full Time May		City Centre	1 Year	PT1850
Part Time September		City Centre	18 Months	PT1849
Part Time January		City Centre	18 months	PT1849
Part Time May		City Centre	18 months	PT1849

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 Aims
	The course is guided by four principal educational aims: • To enable students to acquire, develop and demonstrate advanced knowledge, technical skills and research experience in their field of study. • To enhance students' critical analysis of research methodologies (i.e. philosophies, approach and methods within), including hypothesis testing, high-quality experimental design, effective use of research equipment, robust data analysis and the writing of scientific research papers in top Q1 or Q2 journal outlets. • To provide an extensive set of transferable research skills through targeted workshops, academic meetings and subject-specific sessions. • To prepare students for application to doctoral-level study or advanced research positions.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
1	Demonstrate mastery of a specialist area within the built environment through a deep understanding of current research, contemporary issues and emerging trends in sustainability, technology and interdisciplinary collaboration.
2	Design an original, feasible and novel research proposal focused on a specific topic within the built environment, integrating research methodologies that address key challenges in the sector.
3	Demonstrate critical thinking and analysis in evaluating and selecting the most appropriate methodologies to address complex issues in the built environment, such as sustainability, digital transformation, construction innovation, innovative engineering solutions and urban development.
4	Develop comprehensive research skills and the ability to apply appropriate research methods, tools and techniques to the built environment, ensuring robust data collection, analysis and interpretation within your chosen field of study.
5	Apply innovative technologies and approaches to disseminate complex research findings, making them accessible to a range of audiences, including industry professionals, policymakers, and academic communities, with a focus on practical impact in the built environment sector.
6	Conduct a substantial piece of independent research that demonstrates original thinking and contributes new knowledge to the field of built environment studies, with the potential to be developed further at the doctoral level.
7	Apply reflective practice to evaluate your own research process, integrating feedback from supervisors to refine research approach and enhance the impact of the research study.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 7, students will be able to obtain the Postgraduate Certificate in Built Environment.</i>
	LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5, LO6, LO7
	<i>Upon completion of 180 credits at Level 7 students will be awarded the Masters by Research in Built Environment.</i>
	LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5, LO6, LO7

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	The overall teaching, learning and assessment strategy of the course is that you are at the centre of learning and teaching, with a particular focus on the reflective learner and the development of professional skills and advanced research capabilities. Teaching takes various forms including lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials. Further learning activities will include guided reading, video lectures, discussion forums and journals; and scheduled activities such as tutorials, action learning groups and peer review. Critical thinking is vital in Master's study and students are required to develop their own conclusions based on solid evidences and logical analysis. The course has a strong ethos of interdisciplinary/multi-professional learning and reflection, and you will be asked to explore and share applications of the material to your own professional practice as part of the learning experience. This will support you to: critically reflect; robustly contextualise your practice experience/ assumptions; and formulate directions for further investigation. The course is divided into 2 stages as shown in the table below.

Research Foundation	Assigned Taught Module 1 (20 credits)	Assigned Taught Module 2 (20 credits)	Assigned Taught Module 3 (20 credits)
Thesis Development	MRes Thesis Module (120 credits)		

The Research Foundation stage is covered in the first stage and the Thesis Development and Writing is the focus for the second stage. Upon enrolment before the Research Foundation stage, you will be assigned to study 3 taught modules, which are at Level 7 and 20 credits each, these will be linked to and support development in your discipline specific expertise. During the Research Foundation stage, you will have a designated personal tutor who is familiar with your area of practice. Tutor meetings will be regular through the year to discuss learning strategies and approaches, progress with assessments and any challenges. Your personal tutor will also be appointed as your supervisor at the Thesis Development and Writing stage, to provide continuity of experience. The supervisor will be familiar with your specific research topic and provides assistance, advice and feedback on the processes of Master's level research, analysis and writing. You should expect to meet your supervisors (virtually or face to face) regularly/weekly throughout the Thesis Development and Writing stage.

The supervisor plays an important role on the course in providing you with:

- Guidance on the nature and methodology of applied research.
- Opportunity to meet on a regular basis at appropriate times.
- Supervision support combined with formative assessment of research and reflective work.
- Assistance in identifying your own learning needs.
- Constructive criticism of your work within a reasonable time.
- Feedback if your work is below the acceptable standard for the award and an explanation of the steps needed to remedy your unsatisfactory progress.

The University hosts an annual research conference that incorporates the work of our Master's researchers, at which you will be encouraged to present your work. These ongoing activities support your learning and development as a researcher and provide you with a scholarly network, as well as providing a continued sense of belonging to a community, which is particularly important for independent researchers.

Your learning is supported by BCU Library and Learning Resources and specialist librarians. The majority of reading for the Module stage is accessible online. The library provides digital access to a wealth of evidence, including via scholarly databases.

Assessment Strategy

During the Research Foundation stage, assessment takes place through coursework. Examples of coursework include essay, research proposal and research report. The assessment strategy as a whole supports core components of Master's researcher development, including advanced level academic writing, communication to non-specialist audiences and research planning. Assessment

formats are authentic to the development of both your research skills and the independent research project itself.

All taught modules offer opportunity for formative feedback from tutors while you work towards summative assessment, including through individual or group tutorials.

You will receive detailed written feedback/feedforward on all summative assessments to aid the further development of your academic skills, research focus and project plans. In this way, assessment through the Research Foundation stage will serve as groundwork for your Master's research in the Thesis Development and Writing stage.

During the Thesis stage, your work with supervisors provides regular formative assessment opportunities through review and discussion of your plans, thesis writing and thinking. When you have a final draft prior to submission, typically 4 weeks prior to submission, you are offered a final review by the supervisor on your whole thesis to support final editing and preparation for the viva voce (oral) examination.

The final examination involves preliminary assessment of the written thesis by the examining team, followed by defence of the thesis in a viva voce examination to confirm the originality of the works and the marks given by the examining team. This is conducted in adherence with BCU's Research Degree Regulations.

15 Course Requirements

15a Level 7:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
BNV7219	Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis	120

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 60 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
BNV7125	Integrated Project Delivery	20
BNV7126	Advanced Quantification	20
BNV7128	Cost Management	20
BNV7129	Sustainable Construction	20
BNV7130	Project Management Methods	20
BNV7131	Business Management	20
BNV7136	Commercial Inspection and Reporting	20
BNV7141	Law and Practice	20
BNV7143	Professional Practice	20
BNV7144	Property Management	20
BNV7149	Innovation in Construction	20
BNV7213	BIM Process and Practice	20
CMP7227	Data Visualisation	20

15b Structure Diagram
Level 7
Full Time September Start

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO/THREE
3 optional modules from the list below: • BNV7128 Cost Management (20 credits); • BNV7130 Project Management Methods (20 credits); • BNV7136 Commercial Inspection and Reporting (20 credits); • BNV7141 Law and Practice (20 credits); • BNV7149 Innovation in Construction (20 credits); and • CMP7227 Data Visualisation (20 credits).	Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (120 credits).

Full Time January Start

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO/THREE
3 optional modules from the list below: • BNV7125 Integrated Project Delivery (20 credits); • BNV7126 Advanced Quantification (20 credits); • BNV7129 Sustainable Construction (20 credits); • BNV7130 Project Management Methods (20 credits); • BNV7131 Business Management (20 credits); • BNV7143 Professional Practice (20 credits); • BNV7144 Property Management (20 credits); • BNV7149 Innovation in Construction (20 credits); and • BNV7213 BIM Process and Practice (20 credits).	Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (120 credits).

Full Time May Start

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO/THREE
3 optional modules from the list below: • BNV7125 Integrated Project Delivery (20 credits); • BNV7129 Sustainable Construction (20 credits); • BNV7130 Project Management Methods (20 credits); • BNV7131 Business Management (20 credits);	Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (120 credits).

Part Time September Start

Year 1

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER THREE
2 optional modules from the list below • BNV7128 Cost Management (20 credits); • BNV7130 Project Management Methods (20 credits); • BNV7136 Commercial Inspection and Reporting (20 credits); • BNV7141 Law and Practice (20 credits); • BNV7149 Innovation in Construction (20 credits); and • CMP7227 Data Visualisation (20 credits).	1 optional module from the list below: • BNV7125 Integrated Project Delivery (20 credits); • BNV7126 Advanced Quantification (20 credits); • BNV7129 Sustainable Construction (20 credits); • BNV7130 Project Management Methods (20 credits); • BNV7131 Business Management (20 credits); • BNV7143 Professional Practice (20 credits); • BNV7144 Property Management (20 credits); • BNV7149 Innovation in Construction (20 credits); and • BNV7213 BIM Process and Practice (20 credits).	Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (40 of 120 credits studied).

Year 2

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (40 of 120 credits studied).	Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (40 of 120 credits studied).

Part Time January Start

Year 1

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER THREE
2 optional modules from the list below: • BNV7125 Integrated Project Delivery (20 credits); • BNV7126 Advanced Quantification (20 credits); • BNV7129 Sustainable Construction (20 credits); • BNV7130 Project Management Methods (20 credits); • BNV7131 Business Management (20 credits); • BNV7143 Professional Practice (20 credits); • BNV7144 Property Management (20 credits); • BNV7149 Innovation in Construction (20 credits); and • BNV7213 BIM Process and Practice (20 credits).	1 optional module from the list below: • BNV7125 Integrated Project Delivery (20 credits); • BNV7129 Sustainable Construction (20 credits); • BNV7130 Project Management Methods (20 credits); • BNV7131 Business Management (20 credits);	Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (40 of 120 credits studied).

Year 2

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (40 of 120 credits studied).	Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (40 of 120 credits studied).

Part Time May Start

Year 1

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER THREE
2 optional modules from the list below: • BNV7125 Integrated Project Delivery (20 credits); • BNV7129 Sustainable Construction (20 credits); • BNV7130 Project Management Methods (20 credits); • BNV7131 Business Management (20 credits);	1 optional modules from the list below: • BNV7128 Cost Management (20 credits); • BNV7130 Project Management Methods (20 credits); • BNV7136 Commercial Inspection and Reporting (20 credits); • BNV7141 Law and Practice (20 credits); • BNV7149 Innovation in Construction (20 credits); and • CMP7227 Data Visualisation (20 credits).	Core: BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (40 of 120 credits studied).

Year 2

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (40 of 120 credits studied).	Core BNV7219 Masters by Research (MRes) Thesis (40 of 120 credits studied).

16	Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment
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Level 7
Workload
Time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	156
Directed Learning	Varies depending on optional modules
Private Study	Varies depending on optional modules
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	Varies depending on optional modules
Exam	Varies depending on optional modules
In-Person	Varies depending on optional modules