

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	Graduate Diploma: Design Portfolio
	Course Code	UQ0632
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)	not applicable

6	Course Description (Marketing text for website)
	<p>This course is for graduates who want to undertake masters' level study but who have not yet met the required standard for admission to their chosen course. Through the course, we aim to help you to enhance your creative portfolio, knowledge and skills to a point that you will be eligible to join one of the MA courses within the Birmingham School of Architecture and Design.</p> <p>We acknowledge that students will begin the course with very different development needs; perhaps you need some support with your written or spoken English; or perhaps your portfolio would benefit from the world-class facilities available at Birmingham City University and the input of our experienced academic staff? Whether your development needs are creative or academic, this course will help you achieve your goals.</p> <p>Your course begins with a diagnostic tutorial during which we will assess the support you need to develop your creative portfolio, knowledge and skills. This will result in a personalised plan to help you achieve your goals. The Academic Skills modules will allow you to improve those all-important skills needed for successful masters' level study, such as understanding and communicating theories and arguments relevant to your practice. Through the Academic Skills modules, we aim to provide specialist support for students with English as a second language.</p> <p>On successful completion of the course, you are guaranteed access to one of the following MA courses in the Birmingham School of Architecture and Design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MA Conservation of the Historic Environment MA Design and Visualisation MA Design Management MA Interior Architecture and Design MA Landscape Architecture with Conversion (2 year course) MA Product and Furniture Design <p>You may also be eligible to join one of the other MAs in the School or wider Faculty of Arts Design and Media, depending on the suitability of your portfolio and abilities.</p> <p>While the main purpose of this course is to prepare you for Masters level study, the following transferable skills are embedded throughout the curriculum to help you become more employable:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time management • Project management • Effective communication through a variety of methods, including presentations • Group working • Problem solving • Digital literacy <p>We recognise that students will have different prior experiences and competences and may not need to complete the full course in order to achieve the standards required for entry to Masters. Depending on your prior experience, the University's Recognition of Prior Learning scheme may enable you to make a case to undertake just those aspects of the course which meet your development needs.</p> <p>As part of the application process, we require a digital portfolio demonstrating critical thinking, technical abilities and creative process relevant to the subject area.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Graduate Diploma	6	120
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Graduate Certificate	6	60

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	1 year	UQ0632

10	Entry Requirements	
	Home:	Good Honours Degree relevant to the discipline or equivalent experience
	EU:	IELTS 5, with 5 in all bands, or equivalent
	International:	IELTS 5, with 5 in all bands, or equivalent
	Access:	Not applicable
11	Course Aims	
	<p>The overall aim of the course is to help students to progress to L7 study by supporting the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical and practical skills relevant to the discipline - Knowledge and understanding of the principal contextual areas relevant to the discipline 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ability to critically reflect on the student's own work and the work of others relevant to the discipline - The ability to work independently, managing time and resources effectively - The ability to research, analyse and apply relevant theoretical frameworks to the students own practice - The ability to communicate, in writing and verbally, key aspects of the discipline as it relates to their own practice
12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	Apply core vocabulary both academic and practical within their chosen architecture or design discipline.
2	Undertake personal research and analysis to apply technical and theoretical frameworks.
3	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of principal areas within their discipline and their chosen architecture or design discipline and relevance to own practice.
4	Communicate key aspects, problems and approaches to proposals within own architecture or design discipline and practice.
5	Critically evaluate and reflect upon their own and others' practice within the discipline.
	Skills and other Attributes
6	Work independently, managing time and resources effectively in order to complete a body of work.
7	Demonstrate practical, analytical and critical skills within a portfolio of work commensurate with undertaking higher study.
8	Generate, develop and apply ideas within own practice and discipline.
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14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p><i>This section explains the learning and teaching approaches, activities and experiences that your course will offer; the range of assessments and types of feedback and feed forward you will encounter, and explain how these will support your continuous learning throughout the course, and explain the expectations we have of you in this learning partnership.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist visiting tutors and practicing visiting lecturers enhance the delivery of the course. • Modules focus on intellectual, cognitive and practical skills and these are reflected in module assessment criteria. • VLE (virtual learning environment) resources including e-portfolios, online submissions and activities are integral to the course. • Seminars enable open discussion, contribution by tutors, peer to peer learning. Critical abilities are developed through practicing the articulation of ideas, questioning and the testing of knowledge through contextual discussion. • Lectures provide information and opportunities for visual presentation of ideas, information, concepts and theories. • Group work develops collaborative and communication skills, networking, sharing and supporting learning approaches. • Self-directed study develops independent working, autonomy and self-awareness. The ability to project manage, time manage and identify your own learning needs is supported

by formal and informal learning opportunities throughout the course. Self-directed study is key to successfully managing and achieving the course learning outcomes.

- Individual and group critiques help to focus you on evaluating your own work and in identifying directions for study and research. Module and specialist tutors will question and advise you, presenting alternatives and challenging decisions, in order to help you realise your full potential and to develop critical and evaluative skills.
- The workshops will be available for access to materials and equipment for practical work in a range of mediums and materials. Workshop inductions will include health and safety, safe working practices and demonstrations of applicable techniques and processes.

How you will be assessed

Assessment is both Formative and Summative – Formative learning takes place throughout the module at a variety of points; usually in the form of a tutorial. Summative Assessment occurs when work is submitted for final review at defined points in the module.

Knowledge is assessed by a number of methods including presentation and display of project work, verbal presentations and written work.

Transferable/key skills are developed throughout the course. PRAXIS relates to the development of professional attributes and subject skills and is embedded within modules at all levels.

Assessment takes place at regular intervals throughout each term & module during the year, with final assessments culminating at the end of each of the 3 trimesters. The modules are aligned so that students have the opportunity to engage with each subject, but are not 'overloaded' in the process. Modules are generally assessed in sections using credits. The number of credits within a module will depend on the content, structure, and the learning outcomes.

The individual assessment criteria is module-dependent, and the module outlines provided give a clear indication as to the principle assessable elements for each module of study. The modes of assessment will vary depending on the module content; however they will encompass a combination of (for example):

- 2D & 3D investigative / analytical work
- 2D Design work
- 3D Design work (including models / prototypes)
- Research & analysis
- Conceptual / Sketch developments
- Computer Visualisations
- Seminars / Presentations
- Written reports / investigations

Work will be assessed by your module tutors - this will include assessment of physical work and digital submissions. An assessment moderation takes place for all modules to ensure quality & parity throughout the assessment process.

In all circumstances it is important that when submitting work you receive a receipt. This is your proof of submission.

With the feedback provided it is important to note that any marks assigned are subject to confirmation from the External Examiner, and verification at either the Trimester or End of Year

examination boards. Only then will marks for the assessed elements be formalised. General details surrounding the assessments for each module can be found in the course specification.

The Academic Skills modules are for pre-masters students across the wider Faculty so you will get to know students from outside your subject area and benefit from exposure to their practice and perspectives. The module works in tandem with your Portfolio and Major Project modules, allowing you to use the knowledge and skills you are developing to communicate ideas about your own practice and that of others related to your subject area.

You will be taught mainly online, providing you with an opportunity to take part in interactive activities in your own time to support your learning. You will also participate in online group tutorials and seminars where your lecturers will help you to contextualise your learning to your particular subject area and your own practice. Your assessment will consist of presentations, short written proposals and reports relevant to your subject area. You'll have opportunities to get feedback on drafts of your work and to practice your presentations, with feedback from your fellow students and lecturers.

15	Course Requirements																
15a	Level 6: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i>																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ADM6008</td> <td>Academic Skills 1</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DES6011</td> <td>Developing a Portfolio - Architecture and Design</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADM6005</td> <td>Major Project</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADM6009</td> <td>Academic Skills 2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	ADM6008	Academic Skills 1	40	DES6011	Developing a Portfolio - Architecture and Design	20	ADM6005	Major Project	40	ADM6009	Academic Skills 2	20	
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DES6011	Developing a Portfolio - Architecture and Design	20															
ADM6005	Major Project	40															
ADM6009	Academic Skills 2	20															

15b	Structure Diagram
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Level 6

September Start

Semester 1	Semester 2
Academic Skills 1 (40 credits)	Academic Skills 2 (20 credits)
Developing a Portfolio - ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN (20 credits)	Major Project (40 credits)

January Start

Semester 2	Semester 3
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Academic Skills 1 (40 credits)	Academic Skills 2 (20 credits)
Developing a Portfolio - ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN (20 credits)	Major Project (40 credits)

16 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.

Level 6

Workload

10% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	116
Directed Learning	272
Private Study	812
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	66.6
Exam	
In-Person	33.3