Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	BA (Hons) Product and Furniture Design with Foundation Year
2	**BCU Course Code** | **UCAS Code**	US0816F | W24F
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)	

6	**Course Description**

Our Product and Furniture Design course focuses on the design and development of creative, contemporary and innovative products and furniture, considering user centred design, social context and commercial understanding. Throughout your degree, you will be encouraged to explore materials, techniques and processes in relation to scales of manufacture, from one-off bespoke design to design for standardised mass production.

You will learn a range of research and design methods alongside continual practical skills development. Live student projects take place throughout the course to enhance your employability, communication skills and professional practice.

About foundation courses

This four year degree course has been specifically designed to allow students who do not initially meet the entry requirements for a three year degree, to undertake additional level 3 study designed to ensure they are successful on their chosen degree programme.

After successful completion of your foundation year, you will have the flexibility to switch (should you wish to change direction) onto a number of related undergraduate degree programmes within Birmingham School of Architecture and Design.

What's covered in the course?

You will examine the process of designing and developing functional and desirable products and furniture, examining how social and cultural factors influence design decisions. You will develop knowledge and understanding of design in response to collaborative, professional, commercial and economic considerations.

Alongside research and design development skills, you will also increase your practical knowledge through extensive hands-on exploration. Engaging with making from the outset enables you to fully realise design concepts and create convincing models and prototypes. Underpinned with strong contemporary design thinking, you will explore the breadth of scales of manufacture across product and furniture design to be able to position yourself within a global industry.

By working on live projects, work placements and collaborative projects, you will explore how businesses operate at a commercial, technological, ethical and sustainable level. Second year students recently worked with Philips, developing user-centred lighting applications and third year students exhibited and sold work at Minima: one of Birmingham's key contemporary design showrooms. You'll also benefit from the insight of guest speakers from across the design spectrum from designer makers to industrial designers and product and furniture developers.

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Product and Furniture Design	6	480
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Foundation Certificate Architecture and Design	3	120
	Certificate of Higher Education Product and Furniture Design	4	240
	Diploma of Higher Education Product and Furniture Design	5	360
	Bachelor of Arts Product and Furniture Design	6	420

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	Location	Duration of Study	Code
Full Time	City Centre	4 Years	US0816F

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/, or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

11	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	Demonstrate a broad range of technical and design skills, methods & and approaches and their suitability in relation to consumers and scales of manufacture.
2	Design for a range of consumers and market levels in relation to product and furniture design and production.
3	Explore historical, critical and contextual factors related to Product & Furniture design.
4	Communicate design concepts and outcomes to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
	Cognitive and Intellectual Skills
5	Critique contextual issues pertinent to contemporary design and manufacture.
6	Demonstrate creative thinking skills and approaches to design problems and/or opportunities.

7	Critically evaluate and select appropriate design methods and processes for self-selected or client led design briefs.
8	Synthesise and apply research methods appropriately in order to inform design development.
	Practical and Professional Skills
9	Apply practical and technical knowledge in the production of creative work, utilising industry relevant equipment and processes.
10	Demonstrate problem solving, creativity bounded by constraints and combined with hands-on practical manufacture.
11	Synthesise manufacturing knowledge and practice in relation to design decisions.
	Key Transferable Skills
12	Effectively communicate to a range of audiences using written, visual and oral formats.
13	Apply critical thinking and problem solving skills.
14	Collaborate with others and work effectively in a professional context.
15	Manage and develop own learning through reflection and self-evaluation.

12	**Course Requirements**	

12a	Level 3:

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
ARC3000	Communication Skills	20
ARC3001	Design Disciplines	20
ARC3002	Design Techniques	20
ARC3003	Place and Space and Objects	20
ARC3004	Presentation Techniques	20
ARC3005	Professional and Academic Development	20

Level 4:

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
ARC4020	Design Principles & Processes	20
ARC4021	Contextual & Cultural Studies	20
ARC4019	Design Visualisation	20
ARC4018	Material & The Made Object	20
ARC4017	Scales of Manufacture	40

Level 5:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
ARC5036	Design Communication	20
ARC5034	Design Synthesis	40
ARC5035	Design Focus	40

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following list of OPTIONAL modules:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20
ADM5000	Work Placement	20
ADM5001	Live Project	20

Level 6:

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
ARC6109	Design in Context	20
ADM6005	Major Project	40
ARC6112	Major Design Project	60

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12b   Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only as modules will only run if selected by 15 or more students. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Level 3

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core ARC3000:Communication Skills (20 credits) ARC3005: Personal and Academic Development (20 credits) ARC3002: Design Techniques (20 credits)	Core ARC3001: Design Disciplines (20 credits) ARC3003: Place, Space and Objects (20 credits) ARC3004: Presentation Techniques (20 credits)

Level 4

Core ARC4021: Contextual and Cultural Studies (20 Credits) ARC4020: Design Principles and Processes (20 Credits) ARC4019: Design Visualisation (20 Credits)	Core ARC4018: Materials and the Made Object (20 Credits) ARC4017: Scales of Manufacture (40 Credits)

Level 5

Core ARC5036: Design Communication (20 Credits) ARC5034: Design Synthesis (40 Credits)	Core ARC5035: Design Focus (40 Credits)
	Optional ADM5006: Collaborative Practice (20 Credits) ADM5000: Work Placement (20 Credits) ADM5001: Live Project (20 Credits)

Level 6

Core ARC6109: Design in Context (20 Credits) ADM6005: Major Project (40 Credits)	Core ARC6112: Major Design Project (60 Credits)

A17 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 3

Workload

40% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	430
Directed Learning	50
Private Study	790
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	

Level 4

Workload

40% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	430
Directed Learning	50
Private Study	790
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	

Level 5

Workload

35% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	278
Directed Learning	100
Private Study	822
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	

Level 6

Workload

20% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	200
Directed Learning	40
Private Study	960
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	