

Programme Specification

Every taught course of study leading to a UAL award is required to have a Programme Specification. This summarises the course aims, learning outcomes, teaching, learning and assessment methods, and course structure. Programme Specifications are developed through course validation and are formally approved by UAL Validation Sub Committee (VSC). They are available to prospective students through the course web page, and must be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency of information (for example, following any modifications or local developments).

Awarding Body Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB)	University of the Arts London (UAL)
Teaching Institution	Central Saint Martins
Final Award	MA Architecture: Cities and Innovation
Length of Course	Full time, two years
UCAS code	N/A
Date of production/revision	May 2017

Course Aims

The aims of the course identify the rationale underlying the student's educational experience and own personal achievement from studying on the course and its affect upon the student's long term achievement and career.

This course aims to:

- apply high-level architectural thinking and design skills to understand the needs of communities in contemporary cities and propose timely, innovative, and inclusive design solutions which recognise, promote and support sustainable communities and built environments;
- adapt to changes in the architectural profession, and through experimentation, collaboration and interaction, develop alternative approaches to architectural practice which transcend the traditional paradigms.

Course Outcomes

The course enables the student to demonstrate the following subject knowledge and understanding, intellectual and academic skills, practical subject skills, key attributes and transferable skills. Each outcome should be detailed below.

The outcomes that you will have demonstrated upon completion of the course, are:

Outcome:	Develop innovative and sustainable design proposals, at urban, architectural, and detail scales which engage with the social, economic and physical infrastructures of built environments, addressing the needs of communities and individuals in the contemporary city (MC Subject Knowledge)
Outcome:	Show originality in the application of research, analysis, design-skills and the testing of new ideas, including in the development and application of methods of collaboration and public engagement with a range of audiences and constituencies (MC Experimentation; Collaborative and/or Independent Professional Working)
Outcome:	Evaluate and make appropriate choices about the form of visual, oral and written media which are best suited to research, analyse, critically examine and communicate your design proposals to specialist and non-specialist audiences (MC Communication and Presentation)
Outcome:	Evaluate material, constructional, environmental and structural techniques and understand how these support and are integrated into sustainable design solutions (MC Technical Knowledge)
Outcome:	Engage in the advancement of knowledge through research and critique, and present this work through clear, reasoned and well-structured argument based on architectural history, theory and the broader social and political contexts of the arts, design and society (MC Research; Analysis)
Outcome:	Reflect upon and respond to changes in the profession of architecture, recognising new emerging roles in architecture and alternative approaches to practice (MC Subject Knowledge; Personal and Professional Development)
Outcome:	Engage in collaborative working practices, with both professionals and non-professionals, in the development of innovative design

	processes and solutions, drawing on multidisciplinary practices across art and design (<i>MC Collaborative and/or Independent Professional Working</i>)
Outcome:	Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks as a creative and resilient practitioner (<i>MC Personal and Professional Development</i>)

Learning and Teaching Methods:

Provide a summary of the relevant learning and teaching methods for the course (i.e. lectures, seminars, independent learning).

The primary means of learning for each student is through studio practice. This is supported and developed through:

- Unit and project briefings;
- Set and self-initiated project briefs;
- Inductions, lectures and seminars;
- Collaborative workshops and interdisciplinary study teams;
- Peer learning;
- Self and peer assessment;
- Guest speakers;
- Group discussions, reviews and critiques;
- Working with clients on live projects;
- Mentoring;
- Independent study

Scheduled Learning and Teaching

State the notional learning hours and provide a percentage breakdown of timetabled teaching and learning activities per level.

Scheduled Learning and Teaching – this is the percentage of your time spent in timetabled learning and teaching. You are expected to study for 1,800 hours over 60 weeks; below is the amount of time which is timetabled activity. The rest of your learning time will be self-directed, independent study.

Percentage of time spent in timetabled learning and teaching – 22%.

Assessment Methods:

Provide a summary of the relevant assessment methods for the course.

Holistic assessment of achievement as demonstrated through:

In Unit 1

- A *Portfolio* that incorporates and presents the design outcome of each project. This work should be communicated through a range of visual media and methods appropriate to the nature of your work. The work of your portfolio will be linked to and underpinned by your Research Methodologies Report;
- A *Research Methodologies Report* (2,500-3,000 words) that provides clear information about the development and implementation of your design engagement methodologies through both reflection and analysis. This report will become a shared document with the entire cohort and will further inform your work in Unit 2.

In Unit 2

- A Presentation and Placement Report (3,500-5,000 words) that critically evaluates professional practice in relation to your own placement experience;
- A written Major Project Proposal of approximately 750-words, outlining the aims, objectives and proposed methodologies for the project. This should conform to the model provided;
- A portfolio of work; including drawings, models, and other forms of communication, which shows the process and outcomes of your design

propositions. Your choice of communication methods should take into account different audiences and stakeholders;

- A bound Critical Design Report (2,500-3,000 words) which documents your learning throughout Unit 2; providing a clear articulation of the research and development process associated with your Major Project;
- With your colleagues, you will organise and host a Symposium to present and discuss the outcomes of your Major Projects.

Reference Points

List any policies, descriptors, initiatives or benchmark statements used in the development of the course.

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- FHEQ Level Descriptors (Level 7);
- University Strategy for Student Learning;
- External industry advice and guidance;
- QAA Subject Benchmark for Architecture

Programme Summary

Programme structures, features, units, credit and award requirements:

List the course details that constitute the agreed student entitlement for this course. This should include unit titles and credit, types of learning, and details of tutorial support. If the course includes a work or study placement (including Dip Professional Studies), the duration and a summary of expectations around arrangements must be highlighted.

The course is offered in an extended full-time mode. This means that your learning is timetabled over 60 weeks over two academic years, rather than over 45 weeks in one year as operated by many universities.

The course is credit-rated at 180 credits and comprises two assessed units. Summative assessment is conducted for each unit. Both units must be passed in

order to achieve the MA but the classification of the award of MA is derived from the mark for Unit 2 only.

You are expected to commit 30 hours per week to your studies, within which your taught input will normally be scheduled over three days. The course has been designed in this way to enable you to pursue your studies, whilst also undertaking part-time employment, internships or care responsibilities.

The course is comprised of two Units.

The first, **Unit 1: Methodologies for Architectural Engagement**, consists of a series of projects intended to allow you to develop design methodologies for public engagement. These are tested and refined through design propositions. Through this process you are introduced to a variety of research methods and issues relevant to the discipline, which are then directly implemented in the creation/realisation of design work. While developing work for Unit 1 you will be researching and securing an industry placement to be undertaken in Unit 2.

Unit 2: Innovating in Architectural Practice, begins with your Industry Placement. Working with your Mentor you will engage with your chosen practice in order to analyse the ways in which the nature of the practice informs their work. Following your placement you will begin on your Major Project. This is designed to allow you more freedom to explore the way that architectural practice can engage the public through action and intervention. You will define your own brief, based on research and analysis of a chosen site, and develop a real intervention in order to engage the public in a design process and outcome.

Distinctive features of the course:

Identify and list those characteristics that distinguish your course from other, similar courses. Refer to both the student experience on the course and future possible career opportunities.

- Collaboration and multi-disciplinary team-working are at the heart of the learning and teaching experience;
- Each student allocated an advisor in Unit 1;
- Placement with architectural practice;
- Live Projects with external clients are routinely offered through the course.

Recruitment and Admissions

Selection Criteria

The criteria used to make a decision on selection must be fully listed. It must be clear how an applicant's suitability to study on the course as demonstrated at the pre-selection and/or interview stage will be judged (good practice examples are available through the Programme Specification Guidance). Procedures for selection must adhere to the Equal Opportunities Policy of UAL.

Applications are welcomed from candidates from all cultures, life experiences and educational backgrounds.

MA Architecture: Cities and Innovation at Central Saint Martins is open only to candidates with a first degree in architecture, prescribed by the Architects Registration Board, or equivalent.

When making an application, you are asked to submit an accompanying portfolio. We welcome applications in digital format or online.

Selection will be on the basis of the following criteria:

- you have a clear research agenda, related to the aims of the course;
- you can analyse a design problem from a number of perspectives, and generate a range of design responses to a particular problem;
- you can show an understanding of technology, environment and professional practice and how they relate to architectural designs;
- you can show that your personal and professional aspirations are compatible with the aims and objectives of the course;
- you can make appropriate choices about the way in which you communicate your design ideas, process and proposals,
- you have appropriate levels of skill in drawing, model-making, 3D/CAD, as well as written and verbal presentation skills;
- you can demonstrate the necessary fluency in your design process to be able to benefit from the course.

Selection and portfolio review teams normally consist of two people. For overseas applicants, a decision regarding the offer of a place on the course will be made on the basis of a portfolio review, undertaken by the selection team.

All applicants will be required to provide referees, who will in turn be asked to complete a referee questionnaire. References and interviews help the interview/review panel determine whether the personal and professional aspirations of the applicant are compatible with the aims and objectives of the course.

Notes are kept in relation to decisions made following the interview/portfolio review process.

Entry Requirements

List the academic entry requirements relevant to the course, noting any requirements that are above the UAL minimum, or any course specific grade requirements. Language requirements such as IELTS must also be provided. Entry requirements will constitute the standard, conditional offer for the course.

Applicants should have an Upper First Class (2.1) Honours Degree, or equivalent, from an ARB Prescribed course in architecture (or equivalent), and normally at least one year of relevant professional experience.

Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate their competence in English to IELTS Level 6.5 by the production of an IELTS Certificate or evidence of an equivalent level of achievement.

Course Diagram

Insert a course diagram which includes; units and their credit values, plus credit values per year/level, category of units (i.e. core or specialist), progression routes, years/levels of the course, any other relevant characteristics that distinguishes the course

YEAR 1																														
Unit 1															Unit 2															
Autumn Term										Spring Term										Summer Term										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
60 credits Unit 1 Methodologies for Architectural Engagement															S	120 credits Unit 2 Innovating in Architectural Practice														
																Placement														
YEAR 2																														
Unit 2																														
Autumn Term										Spring Term										Summer Term										
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	
Unit 2 (continued) Innovating in Architectural Practice																									S					
Formative assessment points																														
S = Summative assessment points																														
Placement period																														

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