PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION		Newcastle University

1	**Awarding Institution**	Newcastle University
2	**Teaching Institution**	Newcastle University
3	**Final Award**	MA Postgraduate Diploma Certificate
4	**Programme Title**	Urban Design (MA/Diploma) Introduction to Urban Design Theory & Methods of Urban Design Urban Design Implementation Research/Design Studies in Urban Design
5	**UCAS/Programme Code**	4004; 3359; 3009; 3010; 3011; 3012
6	**Programme Accreditation**	N/A
7	**QAA Subject Benchmark(s)**	
8	**FHEQ Level**	7
9	**Date written/revised**	April 2014

10	**Programme Aims**

MA and Diploma routes

1A To equip students with a broad understanding of the field of urban design. To enable them to grasp the theoretical foundations of the discipline; the linkages between theory and practice; and to develop advanced design skills.2 To develop both professional and transferable skills
3 To develop research skills
4 To develop an understanding of the values and ethics of working as a professional in the field of urban design
5 To enable students to develop depth of knowledge and/or skills in particular areas of urban design, underpinned by current and relevant research
6 To meet the criteria for Postgraduate, Certificate, Diploma and Masters level qualifications as laid down in the QAA's National Qualifications Framework
7 To comply with University policy and QAA Codes of Practice

Certificates are no longer available on this topic.

11   Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and Understanding

<u>MA and Diploma routes</u>

A1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of urban design as a field of study which balances the disciplines of environmental design and the social sciences in the creation of the built environment.

A2 Demonstrate understanding of key ideas in and approaches to urban design as a form of action concerned with design and management of the built environment

A3 Demonstrate an understanding of the physical, social cultural, environmental, economic and regulatory contexts of urban design.

A4 Demonstrate an understanding of the development processes involved in urban design; patterns of development; the development industry; and planning processes.

A5 Demonstrate an understanding of diversity issues in urban design stakeholder involvement, communication and the design process.

A6 Demonstrate an understanding of concepts and theories of sustainability in the creation of the built environment.

A7 Demonstrate an understanding of the history of urban form.

A8 Demonstrate an understanding of the outputs and products of urban design; project design; design policies; design codes; frameworks; design guidance; and master-plans.

A9 Demonstrate a critical understanding of values, ethics and professionalism in urban design.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Outcome	Teaching method	Enabling and encouragement
A1/A11	Lectures; tutorials	Independent reading; provision of exemplar material
A2/12	Lectures; seminars	Independent reading; provision of exemplar material
A3/13	Lectures; seminars	Independent reading
A4/14	Design projects	Tutorials
A5/15	Lectures; seminars	Independent reading
A6/16	Lectures; seminars; design projects	Independent reading; provision of exemplar material
A7/17	Lectures	Independent reading

A8/18	Design projects	Provision of exemplar material; tutorials
A9/19	Lectures	Independent reading
A10	Design thesis, or dissertation	Independent reading; tutorials; and design review (for thesis only)

Assessment Strategy

Outcome	Assessed	Method
A1/11	Yes	Project design work reviews and accompanying supporting work; essays; seminar presentations; design thesis or dissertation
A2/12	Yes	Essays; seminar presentations
A3/13	Yes	Essays; seminar presentations
A4/14	Yes	Project design work reviews
A5/15	Yes	Essays; seminar presentations
A6/16	Yes	Essays; project design
A7/17	Yes	Projects
A8/18	Yes	Projects
A9/19	Yes	Projects
A10	Yes	Design thesis, or dissertation

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

MA and Diploma Routes

B1 Define and analyse problems effectively and appropriately in the field of urban design
B2 Make effective use of evidence and information
B3 Articulate reasoned arguments
B4 Develop research skills and experience in the context of urban design

Assessment Strategy

Outcome	Method of assessment
B1/5	Essays; seminar presentations; design review
B2/6	Essays; seminar presentations; design review; design thesis, or dissertation
B3/7	Essays; seminar presentations; design review; design thesis, or dissertation
B4	Design thesis, or dissertation

Practical Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: MA and Diploma Routes C1 Formulate and propose cogent policies, strategies and course of action as responses to urban design problems C2 Evaluate and effectively utilise a variety of urban design outputs and products. C3 Develop advanced graphic communication skills.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Outcome	Teaching method	Enabling and encouragement
C1	Lectures; seminars; design project group and individual tutorials	Independent reading; independent site visits; provision of relevant exemplar material
C2	Lectures, design project group and individual tutorials	Independent reading; engagement with professional practitioners through design review process; provision of exemplar materials
C3	Lectures, design project group and individual tutorials	Engagement with professional practitioners through design review process; provision of exemplar material.

Assessment Strategy

Outcome	Method of assessment
C1	Design review
C2	Design review
C3	Design review

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

All courses

D1 Effectively and fluently communicate information, ideas, principles and arguments; through graphic (both manual and IT) written and oral means.
D2 Work effectively individually and in groups
D3 Develop personal self-management skills such as setting priorities time management, independent learning and reflexive thought

Teaching and Learning Methods

Outcome	Teaching method	Enabling and encouragement
D1	Lectures; design projects	Provision of exemplar material; individual tutorials.
D2	Group and individual design projects	Individual and group tutorials
D3	Tutorials, explicit pieces of writing	Extra individual tutorials as necessary

Assessment Strategy

Outcome	Method of assessment
D1	Design review
D2	Design review
D3	Reflexive witten assessments

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features
Basic structure of the programme

The MA Urban Design is a 180 credit, 12 month programme. The Postgraduate Diploma has the same taught components exclusive of the dissertation. Both can be undertaken on a part-time basis over a minimum of 24 or 21 months for MA and Postgraduate Diploma respectively.

The programme aims to both build core knowledge and skills in urban design. The MA includes a 60 credit design thesis split on a 10-50 ratio between semesters 2 and 3;. This allows the student to focus and develop key design skills rooted in urban design theory and applied to a site of their choice through a self-led design project.

The majority of the programme consists of a series of compulsory modules:
A 10xcredit lecture series and a 10xcredit seminar series both on classic and contemporary issues of theory and practice in the discipline
2x40 credit design projects incorporating learning of key skills and process as well as how to translate theory into practice in some real-life scenario projects with a strong focus on communities.
A further 20xredit design project based in another European city public space and its contextual meaning as well as processes of community participation and action in regeneration.
For MAUD candidates, a 60xcredit design thesis split into a literature and site finding part for 10xcredits in semester 2 and a design development part x50 credits with interim and final reviews in semester 3.
Candidates wishing to obtain RTPI accreditation will be required to take, and pass, TCP8902 The Reflexive Practitioner in place of TCP8052 Urban Design Seminars (another module may be substituted instead of TCP8052 with the approval of the DPD)

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)
Programme regulations (link to on-line version)
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/

13   Criteria for admission
Entry qualifications Undergraduate honours degree in cognate subject with a 2:1 or above pass, or equivalent qualification *Admissions policy/selection tools* All admissions are processed though E2R *Non-standard Entry Requirements* Candidates who do not meet the standard entry qualification, but can demonstrate an equivalent knowledge and skill base acquired through employment may be considered. *Additional Requirements* Candidates must submit an electronic-only portfolio of design work with their application: design work should be as explicitly relevant to Urban Design as possible. The portfolio needs to be in English and the format needs to be easily accessible in high quality resolution. *Level of English Language capability* IELTS 6.5 or equivalent

14   Support for Student Learning
The Student Services portal provides links to key services and other information is available at: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/ *Induction* During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/tutorials/etc.

The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students help students meet across cohorts, learn the city and acclimatise in the university.

Study skills support
Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects.

Numeracy support is available through Maths Aid.

Help with academic writing is available from the Writing Centre. Details can be obtained from Alicia.Cresswell@ncl.ac.uk

We also offer writing support, in bespoke lectures and seminars throughout the course but also on a one-to-one on demand basis in the Writing Development Centre http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wdc/support/

Academic support
The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

Pastoral support
All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees.

In addition the University offers a range of support services, including the Student Advice Centre, the Counselling and Wellbeing team, the Mature Student Support Officer, and a Childcare Support Officer.

Support for students with disabilities
The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies.

Learning resources
The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities. All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language Proficiency Test. This is administered by INTO Newcastle University Centre on behalf of Newcastle University. Where appropriate, in-sessional language training can be provided. The INTO Newcastle University Centre houses a range of resources which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange.

15   Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and   learning

Module reviews
All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the School Teaching and Learning Committee and at the Board of Studies. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

Programme reviews
The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

External Examiner reports
External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Staff-Student Committee.

Student evaluations
All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies. The National Student Survey is sent out every year to final-year undergraduate students, and consists of a set of questions seeking the students' views on the quality of the learning and teaching in their HEIs. Further information is at www.thestudentsurvey.com/ With reference to the outcomes of the NSS and institutional student satisfaction surveys actions are taken at all appropriate levels by the institution.

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback
Feedback is channelled via the Staff-Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

Faculty and University Review Mechanisms
The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process, see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/aqss/qsh/internal_subject_review/index.php

Accreditation reports

Additional mechanisms

16   Regulation of assessment

Pass mark
The pass mark is 40 (Undergraduate programmes)
The pass mark is 50 (Postgraduate programmes)

Course requirements
Progression is subject to the University's Undergraduate Progress Regulations and Undergraduate Examination Conventions. In summary, students must pass, or be deemed to have passed, 120 credits at each Stage. Limited compensation up to 40 credits and down to a mark of 35 is possible at each Stage and there are resit opportunities, with certain restrictions.

Progression is subject to the University's Masters Degree Progress Regulations, Taught and Research and Examination Conventions for Taught Masters Degrees. Limited compensation up to 40 credits of the taught element and down to a mark of 40 is possible and there are reassessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

Weighting of stages

All modules within the stage are weighted proportionally to their credits towards the final classification.

Common Marking Scheme
The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Undergraduate Examination Conventions, namely

	Modules used for degree classification (DC)	Modules not used for degree classification
<40	Fail	Failing
40-49	Third Class	Basic
50-59	Second Class, Second Division	Good
60-69	Second Class, First Division	Very Good

70+	First Class	Excellent

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Taught Postgraduate Examination Conventions, namely:

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Masters programmes and Diploma		**Summary description applicable to postgraduate Certificate and programmes**	
<50	Fail	<50	Fail
50-59	Pass	50 or above	Pass
60-69	Pass with Merit		
70 or above	Pass with Distinction		

Role of the External Examiner
An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, after recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is expected to:

    See and approve examination papers
    Moderate examination and coursework marking
    Attend the Board of Examiners
    Report to the University on the standards of the programme

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In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/)

The School Brochure

The University Regulations (see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/)

The Degree Programme Handbook

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Either

Intended Learning Outcome	Module codes (Compulsory in Bold)
A1	ARC8046, ARC8069, ARC8065 , TCP8091, ARC8052, ARC8096, ARC8096
A2	ARC8046, ARC8069, ARC8065, ARC8097
A3	ARC8046, ARC8069, ARC8065 , TCP8091, ARC8052, ARC8096, ARC8096
A4	ARC8046, ARC8069
A5	ARC8046, ARC8069, ARC8065, ARC8097
A6	TCP8091, ARC8069, ARC8065, ARC8046
A7	ARC8046, ARC8052
A8	ARC8046, ARC8069
A9	TCP8091, ARC8046, ARC8065, ARC8069, ARC8097
B1	ARC8046, TCP8091, ARC8065, ARC8069, ARC8096, ARC8097
B2	TCP8091, ARC8046, ARC8065, ARC8069, ARC 8096, ARC8097
B3	ARC8052, TCP8091, ARC8046, ARC8065, ARC8069, ARC8096, ARC8097
B4	TCP8091, ARC8054, ARC8065, ARC8096, ARC8069, ARC8097
C1	ARC8046, ARC8096, ARC8069, ARC8065
C2	ARC8065, ARC8046, ARC8069, ARC8097
C3	ARC8046, ARC8065, ARC8069, ARC8096
C4	TCP8091 ARC8064, ARC8065 ARC8069 ARC8096 ARC8097
D1	ARC8046, ARC8069, ARC8065 , TCP8091, ARC8052, ARC8096, ARC8096
D2	ARC8046, ARC8069, ARC8065 , TCP8091, ARC8052, ARC8096, ARC8096
D3	ARC8046, ARC8069, ARC8065 , TCP8091, ARC8052, ARC8096, ARC8096