MA/DIPLOMA IN URBAN DESIGN

DEGREE PROGRAMME HANDBOOK

2019-2020

SEMESTER DATES

SEMESTER 1:  Monday 23 September 2019 - Friday 24 January 2020
SEMESTER 2:  Monday 27 January 2020 - Friday 12 June 2020

TERM DATES

Autumn:  Monday 23 September 2019 - Friday 13 December 2019
Spring:  Monday 6 January 2020 - Friday 27 March 2020
Summer:  Monday 27 April 2020 - Friday 12 June 2020
Contents

1. INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................ 6
2. AIMS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME ................................................................. 7
3. SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME COMMITMENTS ................................................... 7
4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (DIPLOMA/MA) ..................................................... 8
5. TRANSFER FROM DIPLOMA (3359) TO MA (4004) .......................................... 10
6. ACCELERATED ROUTE (5365) FOR MARCH STUDENTS ............................... 10
7. MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME ....................................................... 11
   7.1 LECTURES/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS ..................................................... 11
   7.2 PROJECT WORK ....................................................................................... 11
   7.3 CITIES AND CULTURE/FIELD TRIP (ARC8065) .................................. 12
   7.4 DESIGN THESIS .................................................................................... 12
   7.5 ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK ............................................................ 13
8. EXTERNAL EXAMINING ...................................................................................... 13
9. STUDENT COMMENTS, FEEDBACK AND GRIEVANCES .............................. 13
10. THE BLOG www.nclurbandesign.org ............................................................... 14
11. READING LIST ............................................................................................... 14
12. FURTHER KEY INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS ...................................... 16
First let me begin by welcoming you to Newcastle and to the Urban Design postgraduate programme.

I am Georgia Giannopoulou, Degree Programme Director for the MA in Urban Design, and responsible for the pastoral care of all of the students in the MA as well as the day-to-day running of the course. My details can be found on the next page. I hope your study with us will be rewarding and enjoyable to you.

The MA/Diploma in Urban Design is a postgraduate taught programme offered by the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. The programme brings together cross-disciplinary expertise and the aim is to strike a balance between methods and approaches in environmental design and the social sciences in the creation of the built environment.

It is this approach which gives the course a distinctive character among urban design programmes in the UK. The course encourages an interdisciplinary atmosphere, with students able to interact with others on related programmes. The programme is enhanced by links to urban design practices and public sector agencies in the region and students will benefit from professional inputs and engagement with practitioners and stakeholders at various stages in the course.

**Studio**

As with all Masters programmes, the key to its success is the interest and motivation of its students. We hope that you will follow in the footsteps of the previous student groups and take full advantage of this opportunity to improve your knowledge of the subject matter and develop new skills and abilities. Students will also find that their classmates come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. This is a real strength to be embraced and to that end, good interaction within the group is strongly encouraged; a strong ‘studio’ atmosphere where you learn and obtain feedback from each other is highly beneficial to the whole group. To that end, you are sharing a studio with other Postgraduate Degree students on the ground level of Building Science, just across from Claremont Tower. The building itself is the home of all of our postgraduate design programmes and therefore it has a friendly, “buzzing” and creative atmosphere.

**This handbook / other resources**

Degree programmes within all the Faculties of the University are organised within a modular structure and it is important that students understand this system and the implications of it for them. Each student receives a copy of this Degree Programme Handbook which is intended to inform you about the programme which you have just joined.

A number of other informative publications have been produced by the University which you will be given in induction week and are encouraged to read and consult as appropriate. If you have any problems in understanding the degree or diploma programme please do ask us.

There is also a wealth of information about individual modules on the Blackboard web-based learning environment [http://bb.ncl.ac.uk](http://bb.ncl.ac.uk); as soon as you are registered you should check with the Blackboard site to ensure the list of modules you find there are correct. This is important for both full-time and part-time students.
ADDRRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Degree Programme Director MA in Urban Design
Georgia Giannopoulou
Daysh Building Room 5.67 (Faculty Office)
0191 208 6006
georgia.giannopoulou@ncl.ac.uk

Please note, as we are currently in open plan / shared office space, students cannot drop in to see a member of staff. If you require a meeting with your personal tutor you are required to make an appointment via email.

Head of School
Prof. Adam Sharr
Ground Floor, Architecture Building
0191 208 6810
adam.sharr@ncl.ac.uk

Director of Architecture
Prof. Graham Farmer
Second Floor, Architecture Building
Tel: 0191 208 5623
E-mail: graham.farmer@newcastle.ac.uk

You will also undertake a range of modules offered by other members of the school and external tutors, their contact details can be found in the appropriate module outline on the Blackboard site.

In the event of an emergency, please contact the course director. If you are unable to find them please contact the Postgraduate Taught Secretary.

Learning and Teaching Assistant
Nicola Rutherford
General Office, The Quadrangle, Architecture Building
nicola.rutherford@ncl.ac.uk
0191 208 6509

For all day to day enquiries, unless otherwise specified please use the reception office on the ground floor of the Architecture Building.

I hope you have an enjoyable, productive year and that everything runs smoothly, however, please don’t hesitate to seek help if and when you feel you need it!

Very best wishes

Georgia Giannopoulou
September 2019
1. INTRODUCTION

The Degree Programme Handbook outlines the general aims for the degree and diploma programme and lists the modules of the programme.

The Degree Programme Handbook should be read in conjunction with the Newcastle University General Regulations http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/. These describe the University-wide framework of regulations relating to issues of assessment and progress. Part of the purpose of the Degree Programme Handbook is to provide detailed specification for a particular degree programme of a number of items identified in the General Regulations.

In addition to the General Regulations, there are specific Regulations for each degree and diploma programme approved by the University. These specific regulations consist primarily of a list of the modules which constitute that degree programme.

The rules, organisation and content of the MA and Diploma in Urban Design are, therefore, set out in the following sequence of documents:

- University General Regulations and Examination Conventions provide the 'legal' framework of regulations within which all programmes operate. https://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/
  *Please pay particular attention to Student Charter for responsibilities and code of conduct

- Degree and Diploma Regulations provide a formally-approved list of modules and forms of assessment for the specific programme https://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/2019-2020/sapl.php

- The Degree (and Diploma) Programme Handbook plus the module guide provides a more detailed description of the modules, covering content and assessment forms and timetable, together with a context describing the aims and structure of the programme, and rules on such issues as late submission of work.


- The PGT Common Handbook provides more additional information not in this Programme handbook. This will be provided to you at the start of term but can also be accessed via http://www.ncl.ac.uk/apl/students/handbooks/

- Module Briefs, provided by the individual Module Leaders, giving further detail on the timing and nature of lectures and other learning activities, assessment questions/topics and detailed submission times/dates and reading lists.

Please note that changes to the Programme structure and module description, which can be made to improve the quality of the Programme, may take some time to be consistently reflected in all the above documentation. In such cases, please consult the module leader and/or the programme director for the updated version of the documentation.
2. **AIMS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME**

The overall aim of the programme is to develop students' knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of Urban Design in order that they may contribute towards an improvement in the quality of the built environment.

In particular, programme objectives are:

(a) to develop understanding and the ability to evaluate change in physical, economic and social environments.

(b) to improve understanding of the nature and processes of urban development and design.

(c) to develop skills for promoting and implementing sensitive change in the built environment.

3. **SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME COMMITMENTS**

The University's Student Charter is available on the internet at [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations/#studentcharter](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations/#studentcharter). It is also provided to all students as part of the Student Guide. In the Student Charter, the University undertakes to provide you with access to 'high standards of teaching, support, advice and guidance'.

The Student Charter requires that students are provided with a 'programme handbook which details any professional requirements, contact hours, mode of course delivery, assessment criteria, examination arrangements and regulations, academic guidance and support, and appeals and complaints procedures'. The purpose of this summary is to help you locate further details about this key information in your handbooks (please note that information will be found within this handbook and the Postgraduate Common Handbook).

Your handbook also contains a range of other valuable information, so you should read it thoroughly and retain a copy for future reference.

Your attention is also drawn to the Student Charter Supplementary Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Further information on this can be found at [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations/#studentcharter](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations/#studentcharter).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Average number of contact hours across the programme</strong></th>
<th>See 4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (DIPLOMA/MA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mode of delivery</strong></td>
<td>See 4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (DIPLOMA/MA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Normal notice period for changes to the timetable, including rescheduled classes</strong></td>
<td>See 7.5 ASSESSMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Normal notice period for changes to the curriculum or assessment</strong></td>
<td>See 7.5 ASSESSMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Normal deadline for feedback on submitted coursework</strong></td>
<td>See 7.5 ASSESSMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 working days of the submission date, including non-term/semester periods but excluding closure periods and Bank Holidays.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Normal deadline for feedback on examinations

See

7.5 ASSESSMENT

Professional Accreditation:
The Urban Design MA is accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) as a specialist qualification

Assessment methods and criteria:
Essay, coursework, seminar, poster presentation, design crit/reviews, report, design thesis and others. These vary by module and should be checked via Blackboard or the module catalogue:
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/

Academic guidance and support:
Georgia Giannopoulou as Degree Programme Director, module leaders on the various modules
georgia.giannopoulou@ncl.ac.uk

4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (DIPLOMA/MA)

(a) The programme is available for study in full-time and part-time modes

(b) The period of study for full-time mode shall be one year starting in September. The period of study for part-time mode shall normally be two years starting in September.

(c) The programme comprises modules to a credit value of 120 for diploma; 180 for MA

(d) All candidates shall take the following compulsory modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Descriptive title</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Credits Sem 1</th>
<th>Credits Sem 2</th>
<th>Credits Sem 3</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC8115</td>
<td>Design Studio</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC8065</td>
<td>Cities and Culture</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC8069</td>
<td>Housing Alternatives</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP8052</td>
<td>Urban Design Seminars</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP8090</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Urban Design (MAUD)*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Candidates taking the MA in Urban Design (4004) wishing to obtain RTPI accreditation (specialist qualification) will be required to take, and pass, TCP8902 ‘The Reflexive Practitioner’ in place of TCP8090 ‘Principles and Practice of Urban Design’ (which, however, they are advised to observe for their learning).

Urban Design in the UK is multidisciplinary and as such does not carry a specific accreditation, nor one is expected/required in practice. The Urban Design Group [http://www.udg.org.uk/](http://www.udg.org.uk/) is the membership organisation for Urban Designers in the UK, promoting high quality urban design. Based on the content and learning outcomes of the course, The MA in Urban Design is partially accredited as a Specialist course by the RTPI. Any students who has achieved a Spatial accreditation from a prior course, would be eligible to obtain full RTPI accreditation after studying MAUD under the condition that they have completed the mandatory TCP8902 Reflexive Practitioner Module which would be undertaken in Semester 1 and replacing TCP8090 Principles and Practice in Urban Design (we recommend students who chose this route, attend TCP8090 anyway without bearing the credits as the content is very valuable to their course).
Students who have not or are not aiming to in the future complete another partially (Spatial) accredited by the RTPI course, are not required to attend TCP8902 Reflexive Practitioner and cannot claim full RTPI accreditation after the course. This accreditation is not of particular relevance to the discipline of Urban Design as it refers to planning practice.

(e) Masters students must take the following modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Descriptive title</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Credits Sem 1</th>
<th>Credits Sem 2</th>
<th>Credits Sem 3</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC8117</td>
<td>Design Thesis or Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 1 (Part-time)

Candidates shall take the following compulsory modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Descriptive title</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Credits Sem 1</th>
<th>Credits Sem 2</th>
<th>Credits Sem 3</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC8069</td>
<td>Housing Alternatives</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP8052</td>
<td>Urban Design Seminars</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP8090</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Urban Design*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 2 (Part-time)

Candidates shall take the following compulsory modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Descriptive title</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Credits Sem 1</th>
<th>Credits Sem 2</th>
<th>Credits Sem 3</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC8115</td>
<td>Design Studio</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC8065</td>
<td>Cities and Culture</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Candidates taking the MA in Urban Design (4004) wishing to obtain RTPI accreditation (specialist qualification) will be required to take, and pass, TCP8902 ‘The Reflexive Practitioner’ in place of TCP8090 ‘Principles and Practice of Urban Design’ (which, however, they are advised to observe for their learning).

Masters students must take the following modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Descriptive title</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Credits Sem 1</th>
<th>Credits Sem 2</th>
<th>Credits Sem 3</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC8117</td>
<td>Design Thesis or Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. **TRANSFER FROM DIPLOMA (3359) TO MA (4004)**

With DPD approval, students who achieve a semester 1 average of over 60% on the Diploma (3359) will be allowed to transfer to the MA Urban Design (4004) at the beginning of Semester 2.

6. **ACCELERATED ROUTE (5365) FOR MARCH STUDENTS**

(a) Candidates who have taken the following modules as part of their MArch (5843F) studies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Descriptive title</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Credits Sem 1</th>
<th>Credits Sem 2</th>
<th>Credits Sem 3</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC8065</td>
<td>Cities and Culture</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP8052</td>
<td>Urban Design Seminars (at Stage 6)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP8090</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Urban Design (at Stage 6)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Such candidates shall take the following compulsory modules as part of the MA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Descriptive title</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Credits Sem 1</th>
<th>Credits Sem 2</th>
<th>Credits Sem 3</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC8115</td>
<td>Design Studio</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC8069</td>
<td>Housing Alternatives</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC8117</td>
<td>Design Thesis</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) Students who have completed the MArch (5843F) will be granted admission to the MA Urban Design on consideration of previous modules studied as part of the MArch; and may be granted up to 40 credits worth of Credit Transfer if MA Urban Design compulsory modules have been previously studied, and passed, as part of the MArch.

(d) Students admitted to MA Urban Design from the MArch as above, will have their final classification for this award calculated using all 180 credits of MA Urban Design modules studied. As such, the grades achieved in the Urban Design modules studied as part of the MArch, whose credits are transferred to the MA Urban Design.

**Exemptions from the University's Qualifications and Credit Framework and the University Regulations**

An exemption from the University Regulations has been agreed which specifies that the design module (ARC8069) must be passed at first attempt for students to be eligible to proceed to their design dissertation. Students not eligible to proceed to the dissertation can still resit ARC8069 and obtain a postgraduate diploma. Also, the Blog part of ARC8069 (10%) is seen as a stand alone item and there is a requirement that this is passed separately in order for the student to be allowed to pass the module ARC8069, or the mark will not be aggregated. However, there is a 1-resit opportunity for the Blog part of the module.
Newcastle University graduate applicants who achieve a 2:1 honours in the BA Architecture and Urban Planning (K190) degree, will automatically be issued an offer without requiring a portfolio. Graduates who have achieved 2:2 will be required to submit a portfolio and undergo an interview process as part of their admission procedure. This is also applicable to candidates from other undergraduate design related programmes in the School.

7. MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME

7.1 LECTURES/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

Modules involving the teaching of knowledge, concepts and skills in relation to specific subjects normally take the form of lectures and a wide variety of other learning activities. These include seminar discussions, workshops (short practical exercises designed to develop a particular skill) as well as student-centred learning through library studies etc.

Most modules on the Urban Design programme are assessed entirely in the form of coursework. Certain modules however, may be assessed by a combination of written examination and coursework, or a presentation and coursework each comprising varied percentages of the overall mark as explained in the briefs for each module.

Some modules, or parts of modules, will be taught to large student groups, encompassing both postgraduates and senior undergraduates. Some modules, or parts of modules, are also taught with mixed groups of students from different disciplines. This is deliberately to foster the interdisciplinary nature of the course. This is not only a way of producing teaching efficiencies but also an integral part of a modularised academic community. Through specialist reading and coursework requirements Urban Design students will be able to gain the specialised information that they may require. Working with other dissimilar students also offers the opportunity to obtain a different perspective on a particular issue.

With regards to assessment the School has a policy to return marks within 20 working days. You will be advised, usually by e-mail, when your work is ready to collect. In most cases marks and feedback (where applicable, excluding oral feedback in crits) will be returned via Blackboard where work also needs to be uploaded for assessment. You need to familiarise yourselves with the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and with this process.

5.2 PROJECT WORK

The urban design projects are the main vehicles for the development of design understanding and skills. They are designed to relate the theories, methods, and techniques to the practice of urban design. Students will be required to work individually and in groups.

Projects are normally based in the North East of England which offers a wide range of environments from the historic cities to industrial and post-industrial urban areas.

Projects are structured in a series of marked interim presentations and a final with weekly tutorials in between.

Where appropriate, projects will be organised in collaboration with the local public and private sector agencies in the region. This gives realism and relevance to the projects and give students a better introduction to urban design practice. Most design modules also encompass an element of theory to contextualise and underpin the design work. This may be in the form of short lectures or readings presented and discussed in class.
7.3 CITIES AND CULTURE/FIELD TRIP (ARC8065)

The European context also offers a setting for projects. During the second semester there is a field trip arranged, often involving other postgraduate groups in the School. This annual study visit to a European city provides a basis for comparative studies of urban design.

The focus of the project is around ecological design and regeneration. This is supported by the extensive European network of the School. Location for this project is a European city, changing every 2-3 years and the duration is approximately one week.

Further details about this will be provided in due course.

Please note the current cost of the study visit is approximately £500 assuming shared accommodation in youth hostels or shared houses and modest living expenses. This excludes VISA costs where they apply and you need to take this under consideration.

Also note that the responsibility of travel and accommodation arrangements for the field trip lies with YOU and not the University. Most year groups make joint arrangements which makes savings and obviously the earlier the bookings the more likely you will be to find more affordable flights.

If you need a visa for any field trip please apply EARLY (as early as you find out about the destination) as these can take many weeks to be issued. This is particularly important for international students, as this is a compulsory module and non-attendance due to failure to obtain a visa may have significant implications on achieving your qualification. You are all advised to apply for your visas well in advance. Students required to go on a field trip in Schengen countries need to make sure that at the time of their trip they have another 12 months on their UK visa and at least 6 months on their passport.

The University visa office can be contacted via the following e-mail visa@ncl.ac.uk and further information can be found on their web page http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/progress/visa/

7.4 DESIGN THESIS

The Masters students are required to undertake a Design Thesis as part of their Masters-Level qualification. Part of the Design Thesis is a theoretical piece of work identifying a key urban design issue/research question of your interest and conducting a moderate literature review to gain an understanding of key issues and debates around this theme, before focusing and applying understanding on a particular and suitable site of your choice. This work happens in Semester 2 (value 1.0 module) during which time data collection and analysis around the site must also be carried out. The design element of the Dissertation or Design Thesis is completed between May and the beginning of August and is also a discernible module of 5.0 credit value.

Detailed guidance on the design thesis will be provided during the year. Students must recognise the need to submit their completed work by the submission date set annually. In the case where a submitted thesis does not pass the final examination, a period of remedial work (usually 1-month) may be set. This counts as a resit and candidates have one opportunity to resit their thesis. Should they fail, they will walk away with a Diploma in Urban Design (if all other modules have been successfully completed).
7.5 ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

All modules in the course are assessed through project or written work. Many modules have several points of summative and formative assessment and the final mark may be an aggregate of these interim assessments. Details on assessment (type of assessment, marking criteria and deadlines) are given in the brief of every module in the first weeks of term.

Assessment deadlines are very serious. At times assessment dates may be amended by the module leader should circumstances require it. Any extensions to individual students will be subject producing a PEC form [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/progress/student-resources/help/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/progress/student-resources/help/) and having the support of the module leader, the Degree Programme Director and the PEC committee.

Work submitted within 7 calendar days of the assessment deadline will, for the assignment in question, be given a maximum of 50% for postgraduate programmes; work submitted after 7 calendar days will be given a mark of 0.

**Attention:** If you miss an oral assessment (design crit) without a PEC form, you will be marked 0 for this submission as this environment cannot be replicated at a later date.

**All work submitted to Blackboard must be in Word or PDF format only.**

All feedback and provisional marks on any summative assessment will be returned to students within 20 working days of the submission date, including within non-term/semester periods. We ensure that feedback is received by students early enough to influence the next assessment task.

8. EXTERNAL EXAMINING

The current External Examiner for this programme is William Erickson, University of Westminster.

In order to help ensure the quality of the education it provides and the maintenance of the standards of its awards, the University places significant reliance on its external examiners by:

- Requiring them to provide independent and impartial advice, as well as informative comment on the University’s standards and on student achievement in relation to those standards;
- Drawing upon their professional advice and expertise and giving full and serious consideration to their reports.

For more information please visit the university’s policy for external examiners [https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh-extexam-policy.pdf](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh-extexam-policy.pdf)

9. STUDENT COMMENTS, FEEDBACK AND GRIEVANCES

Students are encouraged to make comment about any aspect of their programme or their life in the School, or seek remedies for specific grievance. There are a number of platforms for engaging with tutors and management to discuss issues and bring forward suggestions, including representation in committees and online surveys but also informal ways such as approaching your tutor/Degree Programme Director. Further information on this can be found in the PG Common Handbook. [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/apl/students/handbooks/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/apl/students/handbooks/)
10. THE BLOG www.nclurbandesign.org

Students from the MA in Urban Design of the past 8 years have started an online reflective journal with a richness of urban design resources which they have left behind to you as a legacy. This communication tool can be invaluable to you for exchanging information on course and learning related material but also other topics around your study such as events, life, travel etc. You will all be authors to this Blog for this year and as a cohort you have the freedom to develop and personalise the Blog, which is as much a tool for you to exchange ideas and interests, as much a window for prospective students to have a glimpse into the real life in the MA in Urban Design and a legacy for the future. The Blog will also allow you to build a professional identity for yourself online and improve your networking and job prospects as well as help build an alumni network of Newcastle University Urban Design Students. The blog is an integral and marked element of the course. It has been unanimously recognised by previous students as valuable and enjoyable as well as seen as a best practice innovative tool in teaching design. You will find out more about the Blog in the course of time.

In the meantime have a browse www.nclurbandesign.org

11. READING LIST

Classic texts

The following is a reading list of classic texts in urban design which have either influenced contemporary thinking, or are where different theories have been brought together in an important way. Students should familiarise themselves with ALL these texts as soon as possible.

Krier, R *Urban Space*, Academy Ed, London
Lynch, K *The Image of the City*, MIT Press, Cambridge MA
Rowe, C & Koetter, K (1978) *Collage City*, MIT Press Cambridge MA

Readers

A good way of introducing yourself to a range of theories on urban design is through a ‘reader’ – there are currently two which are recommended.


Contemporary Texts

You should also familiarise yourselves with the following contemporary texts:
Burdett R (2010), The Endless City: The Urban Age Project by the London School of Economics and Deutsche Bank’s Alfred Herrhausen Society, Phaidon
Dr Clara Creed (editor), Marion Roberts, Introducing Urban Design: Interventions and Responses, (1998), Longman
Dr Clara Creed (editor), Marion Roberts, Approaching Urban Design: The Design Process,(1998), Longman
Jan Ghel (2010), Shaping Places: Urban Planning, Design and Development
Cities for People Island Press

Key Websites

http://www.udg.org.uk/
http://www.urbannous.org.uk/
http://www.princes-foundation.org/
12. FURTHER KEY INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

For further key information on the following listed items please refer to the PGT Common Handbook which can be found on the school web-site at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/apl/students/handbooks/ or you can obtain a hard copy from your Programme Secretary.

- Staff in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
- The Student Charter
- Communication with Students
- Student Self Service Portal (S3P)
- Ensuring the Quality of Your Degree

Some General Academic Issues
- Marking Scales
- Standards of Postgraduate Taught Programmes
- Changes to the Curriculum or Assessment
- Timetable Changes

Learning Resources and Support
- Blackboard
- English Language Support at Newcastle University
- Writing Development Centre
- Maths-Aid
- Recording your Attendance at Class
- Modules and Module Choices

Assessment
- General Principles of Modular Assessment
- Forms of Assessment
- Examinations
- Submission of Coursework
- Non Anonymous Marking
- Late or Non-Submission of Coursework
- Word Limits
- Moderation and Scaling Policy
- Disclosure of Marks
- Feedback on Assessments
- Reassessment
- Retention and Return of Assessed Work

Management, Tutorial Arrangements and Student Support
- The Personal Tutorial System
- Degree Programme Director
- Senior Tutor
- Procedures for changing tutors
- APL Student Wellbeing Manager
- Personal Extenuating Circumstances (PEC)
- Student Wellbeing Service
- Student Advice Centre
- Students with Disabilities
- Personal Development Planning
Student Comments, Feedback and Grievances
- Student Representation on Committee’s
- Module Evaluation
- External Surveys
- Grievance Procedure
- Student Complaints and Appeals

Recognition of Prior Learning, Progress, Attendance and Conduct
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- General Provisions Governing Progress
- Satisfactory Progress
- Evidence of Failure to Make Satisfactory Progress
- Change of Circumstances
- Student Attendance & Monitoring
- Student Conduct and Discipline
- Dignity at Work and Study
- Assessment Irregularities

Facilities and Resources in the School and University
- Library Facilities
- Computing Facilities
- Kofi Bar
- Planning Student Space
- Workshop
- ArchiPrint
- Accommodation and Access

Health and Safety
- Emergencies
- Safety and Behaviour on Fieldwork
- Situations Requiring Particular Care
- Field Courses Abroad
- Safety in Design Studios
- Accidents
- Smoking

Other Useful Information
- Exchanges
- Visas
- Equal Opportunities