



Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Manchester School of Art

MA Architecture and Urbanism

Programme Specification 2017-2018

This document provides a concise summary of the main features of the course(s) & associated award(s) offered through this Programme Specification, and includes the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, curriculum content, teaching/learning, assessment methods for each unit and on the Programme's relationship to QAA Subject Benchmark Statements may be found in the dedicated student handbook for the Programme. The accuracy of the information in this document is reviewed periodically by the University and may be subject to verification by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Versioning of Programme Specification

This programme specification is valid for the period of approval confirmed at the time of the approval/last review event and relates to provision approved at that point. Programme specifications are updated on an annual basis to include modifications approved through the University’s quality assurance processes.

This version provides a description of the programme as approved for the academic session indicated in section 3 of the following table.

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Date of initial Approval or last review: | 17 February 2017 |
| 2 | Effective date of Approved/Reviewed Programme Specification: | 1 September 2017 – 31 August 2023 |
| 3 | This Version effective from: | September 2017 |
| 4 | Version number: | 2017 / Version 2 |

Students who commenced their study on awards within this programme specification prior to September 2017 should refer to the previous version of the [programme specification published on the CASQE website](#).

Modifications to Programme Specification

Modifications to the programme specification since approval/ last review, and the cohort of students affected by the change, are listed in Section G (Log of Modifications) at the back of the document.

Cross Referencing of Programme Specifications

| The following elements of provision included in this document is/ are also included in the following programme specifications | Award | Programme Specification |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|
| | N/A | |
| Amendments made to provision listed in this table, must also be reflected in the relevant programme specifications listed above | | |

Programme Specification

The information in this document is organised into the following sections:

Section A – Administrative and Regulatory Information

Section B – Outcomes

Section C – Structure

Section D – Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Section E – Programme Management

Section F – Mapping

Section G – Log of Modifications

SECTION A – ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| 1 | Overarching Programme Specification Title | |
| | MA Architecture and Urbanism | |
| 2 | Brief Summary | |
| | <p>The MA Architecture and Urbanism focuses on the global issues of urban form, its history, future directions and the significance of architecture in framing the life of cities. The course is balance between the professional concerns of architecture, urban design and master planning and research interests in urban heritage, place making and future cities. Students follow a personal plan of research through both written and design projects which address the issues of the contemporary city. Graduates of the course pursue a number of alternative routes following graduation either via the Master of Architecture programme to eventual architectural qualification, or to further postgraduate research leading to doctoral qualification, or directly into professional life as urban designers.</p> <p>The award is jointly conferred by Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester, and students benefit from access to the physical and intellectual resources of both institutions.</p> <p>The MSA is well integrated with the vibrant architectural community of a culturally diverse city, a powerful regional profession and an extensive and active array of international partners. The programme is highly respected for the capability of its graduates who succeed in the trans global setting of research and practice in architecture.</p> | |
| 3 | Awarding institution | Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester |
| 4 | Home Faculty | Faculty of Arts and Humanities |
| 5 | Home Department/ School/ Institute | Manchester School of Architecture |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 6 | UCAS/UTT code(s) | N/A |
| 7 | Framework for HE Qualifications position of final award(s) Framework for HE Qualifications | Masters (Level 7) |
| 8 | Alignment with University Curriculum Framework Curriculum Frameworks | Postgraduate* |
| 9 | Engagement with the University-wide provision (eg Uniwide Language, EdLab) | Uniwide is not available for Postgraduate*/ Externally Validated* programmes |
| 10 | Compliance with University Assessment Regulations University Assessment Regulations | Taught Postgraduate * |
| 11 | Approved Variations/Exemptions from University Assessment Regulations University Assessment Regulations | N/A |
| 12 | Relationship with Faculty Foundation Year | N/A |

Awards

| | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|
| 13 | Final award title(s) | MA Architecture and Urbanism |
| 14 | There is no Combined Honours provision within this programme specification | |
| 15 | Interim exit awards and Subject title(s) | None |

Arrangements with Partners

| | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 16 | Approved Collaborative partner(s) | Partner Name | Type of Collaborative Partnership |
| | | University of Manchester | Jointly delivered programme |
| 17 | Articulation Arrangements with Partners | Partner Name | Details of Arrangements |
| | | University of Manchester | N/A |

Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 18 | PSRB(s) associated with final award of any route within the programme specification | N/A |
| 19 | Date, outcome & period of approval of last PSRB approval/accreditation | N/A |

Approval Status

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 20 | Date and period of approval of most recent Manchester Met review/ approval | (i) <u>Date of Latest review/approval</u> May 2011 |
| | | (ii) <u>Length & Dates of Period of approval given In (i) above:</u> Years: 6 years From: 1 September 2017 To: 31 August 2023 |
| | | (iii) <u>Major Modifications to Programme Specification since last review/approval</u> None |
| 21 | Next Scheduled Review Date: | 2022/23 |
| 22 | Programme Specification effective date: | 1 September 2017 |

SECTION B – OUTCOMES

| | |
|--|---|
| 23 | Manchester Met Graduate Outcomes |
| <p>On successful completion of their course of study Manchester Met graduates will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GO1. apply skills of critical analysis to real world situations within a defined range of contexts; GO2. demonstrate a high degree of professionalism characterised by initiative, creativity, motivation and self-management; GO3. express ideas effectively and communicate information appropriately and accurately using a range of media including ICT; | |

- GO4. develop working relationships using teamwork and leadership skills, recognising and respecting different perspectives;
- GO5. manage their professional development reflecting on progress and taking appropriate action;
- GO6. find, evaluate, synthesise and use information from a variety of sources;
- GO7. articulate an awareness of the social and community contexts within their disciplinary field.

*NB the above align to the **Employability** outcomes on the unit specifications*

24 Programme Rationale

The programme addresses the issues of an increasingly urbanised world and explores aspects of urban futures, advanced design practice and theory within wider cultural, social and technological questions facing humanity as identified in The New Urban Agenda adopted by UN Habitat in October 2016. The seminar / studio based teaching scenario encourages reflective comparison between students on the contexts and consequences of their own and others’ work and aims to contribute new knowledge to the field of urbanism.

Distinctive characteristics of the course fundamentally arise through the personal research path of the students and the global reach of their collective exploration of urban issues. The course is designed to equip architects, urban designers, planners and urbanists with the intellectual, theoretical and practical knowledge and skills essential to understanding and shaping the future city.

25 QAA Benchmark Statement(s)

This programme is not governed by the QAA Benchmark: Architecture 2010 (which is designed specifically for professionally accredited programmes). However, it does broadly follow the themes and ethos included in that document.

There are no masters level benchmark statements for Urbanism and Town Planning.

26 Programme Specific Outcomes

(a) Final Award Learning Outcomes

The MA Architecture and Urbanism is awarded to students who have

PL01 – the ability to generate complex urban design proposals showing understanding of current urban issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, where appropriate, to test new hypotheses and speculations

PL02 – the ability to evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, critically appraise and explain design proposals;

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>PL03 – the ability to evaluate context, processes and techniques that apply to complex urban situations, and to integrate these into resolved design proposals;</p> <p>PL04 - a critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, urban theory and design;</p> <p>PL05 - problem solving skills, professional and academic judgment, and ability to take the initiative in organising work and academic events such as seminars and symposia;</p> <p>PL06 – the ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required to prepare for either future professional qualification or further research</p> | |
| <p>(b) Combined Honours Learning Outcomes Not Applicable for this programme</p> | |
| <p>(c) Pass Degree Learning Outcomes Not Applicable for this programme</p> | |
| 27 | Interim Award Learning Outcomes |
| <p>Not Applicable for this programme</p> | |

SECTION C – STRUCTURE

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 28 | Structures, modes of delivery (eg FT/PT/DL etc), levels, credits, awards, curriculum map of all units (identifying core/option status, credits, pre or co-requisites) potential entry/exit points and progression/award requirements. |
|-----------|--|

OPTION UNITS

Option units listed in the following curriculum structures are all approved for delivery but may not all run in any one academic session.

MA Architecture and Urbanism (FT and PT)

POSTGRADUATE

Level 7

| Core Units | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|--------|---|---------------|
| Code | Occ | Status | Unit Title | No of credits |
| 1D7Z0301 | 9 | Core | Research Methodologies and Events | 30 |
| 1D7Z0302 | 9 | Core | Cities and Urbanism: Ideologies and Futures | 30 |
| 1D7Z0303 | 9 | Core | Studio A | 30 |
| 1D7Z0304 | 1 | Core | Studio B | 30 |
| 1D7Z0305 | 4 | Core | Studio C | 30 |
| 1D7Z0306 | 1 | Core | Dissertation | 30 |

On successful completion of the following Level 7 credits:

180 credits: Final exit award - MA Architecture and Urbanism

SECTION D - TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

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|---|---|
| 29 | Articulation of Graduate Prospects |
| <p>With a largely international cohort of students career prospects are difficult to assess, but recent graduates are generally employed in the architecture or urban design profession or have undertaken further research degrees. Recent graduates have won significant architectural competitions, been employed by prestigious companies or been employed to teach similar courses in other countries. One recent graduate is currently employed by a Pritzker Prize winner. It is therefore possible to assert that those undertaking the course are highly valued externally, and this value is maintained by the constant dialogue maintained with professional and academic colleagues through recognised international fora such as the Caribbean Winter School in Havana and the Venice Architecture Biennale.</p> | |
| 30 | Curriculum Design |
| <p>The curriculum design clearly articulates the development of research capacity and its interrelationship with architecture and urbanism. These are defined in common by the programme learning outcomes and graduate attributes. This programme is not governed by the QAA Benchmark: Architecture 2010 (which is designed specifically for professionally accredited programmes). However, it does broadly follow the themes and ethos included in that document. There is no benchmark statement for Urbanism or Town Planning.</p> | |

The curriculum design reflects the complimentary and symbiotic nature of research and design in an integrated framework reflected in the naming, alignment and sequencing of programme units. The interdependency rather than integration of unit content fosters innovation and development within a clear overall framework for both management and student engagement.

The MA Architecture and Urbanism award creates a fast track programme to doctoral study in architectural design and at the same time creates an opportunity for an alternative route to gaining the PSRB recognised MArch award that could be accumulated as a `hybrid` of full and part time study to complement the full and part time options for the MArch award.

31 Learning and Teaching

Learning and Teaching is characterised by an engaged discourse underlining the focus on the analysis and interpretation of urban contexts that use design as a research tool, technique or method.

Architecture and urbanism (urban design) and the agency of stakeholders in development processes form a key point of reference for all units of study within the programme.

Research and Studio units focus on the development of research skills and methods integral to the field of urban design. There is a specific requirement for the production of disciplined academic writing in the form of a dissertation, which draws on this research context, and on that established through the Cities and Urbanism seminar series.

Studio A is centred on research themes and projects shared by staff, but developed through the year by the students themselves. Students initiate, develop and present a design thesis across the sequence of Studio units B and C.

Learning is undertaken in a variety of seminar group settings. Students pursue preferences that reflect their own ambitions and interests. Students will critically engage with effective team working, peer to peer presentation, publication, exhibition production as well as developing individual trajectories within project work.

Teaching will include a variety of lectures, workshops, symposia as well as group based and individual tutorial activity.

Students will develop a `portfolio` of work for assessment in each unit and for each stage of the programme. Portfolios are typically an organised and coherent record of work that aims to evidence capability that exceeds the expectations of unit and programme learning outcomes.

32 Assessment

Summative assessment occurs at the end of each completed credit unit. At this point Tutors formally mark all course work to indicate student achievement.

Formative assessment is undertaken as units proceed to provide opportunities for feedback and discussion on student progress. Methods will include self-evaluation, peer evaluation and tutor assessment.

Programme learning outcomes and Unit learning outcomes directly reflect criteria introduced to the students.

Work is therefore assessed strictly according to the learning outcomes stated in unit descriptors, on project and assignment briefs and in accordance with the following considerations as appropriate:

Content - the body of scholarship utilised; the extent to which available literature, precedents, individual contacts and field observations have been examined.

Argument - the way in which available material has been critically analysed and ordered, and its relevance to the topic demonstrated, the balance of the judgements made in synthesis.

Presentation - Use and relevance of illustrative material, overall layout of the work and bibliography. The ability to communicate lucidly and cogently reflecting mature control of language verbally, or through written, drawn or modelled forms.

Students may be required to expose their understanding of the decision making process through the display of background work

Progression is on the part time route is subject to the decision of the Assessment Board which includes External Examiners.

Graduation is subject to the decision of the Assessment Board which includes External Examiners who will interview students and inspect work from all credit units within the programme.

The purpose of assessment is to enable students to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the objectives of the programme of study and achieved the standard required for the award they seek. Assessment is a matter of professional and academic judgement, not simply of computation.

33 Inclusive Practice

The programme team routinely use protocols for the dissemination of data related to teaching and learning that are available via a digitally accessible platform to address a variety of learning needs. Other suitable arrangements are established appropriate to more specific needs as a function of the disclosure of these circumstances by individual students.

The programme uses the guidance set out by CELT: <http://www.celt.mmu.ac.uk/inclusion/>

34 Technology Enhanced Learning

The programme utilises digital platforms (Moodle) for the communication of all data relating to unit content and wider contemporary activity within the school and institutional settings. The course blog <http://www.architectureandurbanism.blogspot.com> contains an archive of previous course activities.

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| 35 | Placement and/or Work-based Learning Activities |
| Placement and work based learning is not a requirement of this programme. | |
| 36 | Engagement with Employers |
| <p>The Manchester School of Architecture maintains strong links with the local architectural profession at branch and regional levels of the RIBA through representation on the Manchester Society of Architects. In addition the Programme Leader is currently a member of the national RIBA Education Committee.</p> <p>The Manchester School of Architecture engages practitioners as associate lecturers, visiting critics and experts to support the delivery of its programmes and as active collaborators in the definition of programme content to underpin the relevance of learning to contemporary societal and professional contexts. The School publishes an annual catalogue (available electronically) that features its contemporary collaborations with the architectural profession.</p> <p>The Manchester School of Architecture routinely operates a range of employer engagement activities that directly link students to employment contexts (employment cafe, practice evenings and digital forums via msa+).</p> | |
| 37 | Personal Development Planning |
| PDP is undertaken as a generic activity (in abstraction of individual course units). Students are formally advised in preparation for PDP events, to assist in the recording of a reflective commentary relating to general development within the programme. This strategic approach integrates with more detailed feedback associated with regular tutorial events in studio units. | |

SECTION E - PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

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| 38 | Programme Specific Admission Requirements |
| <p>Students seeking admission should normally hold an honours degree in architecture, but degrees in geography, town planning, landscape architecture or interior design are also permissible.</p> <p>A 2:1 degree classification or international equivalent is a normal minimum requirement. Admission will be dependent on a successful application and may include an interview. It is permissible for students to move directly from a BA/BSc Hons to the MA Architecture and Urbanism programme. We expect but do not require students to identify periods of practical training and associated examples of work usually undertaken in an architectural practice following an undergraduate degree as part of an application.</p> <p>Prospective candidates are asked to submit the following information with their applications:</p> | |

A concise letter of intent introducing your academic interests and explaining your reasons for wanting to attend the Manchester School of Architecture.
 A portfolio of work in PDF format that includes a table of contents with information regarding the duration of projects and in which undergraduate academic year/level it was completed. The portfolio can in addition include work undertaken in an employment context from a practical training period or similar experience.
 At least 2 referees are required, one of which should be from a former tutor/instructor.
 An appropriate English language qualification where the candidate does not hold an English language based degree.

NB Minimum admission points for entry to the University are reviewed on an annual basis. For entry requirements refer to the [current University on-line prospectus](#)

39 Programme Specific Management Arrangements

The programme adheres to the guidance provided in the University’s *Management of Programme Delivery* document in respect of composition, terms of reference and operation of programme committees.

NB: see guidance on [University’s Management of Programme Delivery](#)

40 Staff Responsibilities

Specific roles have been identified and allocated to the management of the programme (in line with guidance provided within the university’s *Management of Programme Delivery* document).

NB: the University’s [Management of programme Delivery](#) is available from the CASQE website

41 Programme Specific Academic Student Support

Generic academic student support is provided to all students in line with the guidance outlined in the University’s Student Handbook.

Programme Specific Support:

The Manchester School of Architecture is a collaboration between the Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester. Both Universities contribute to the resources and management of the School. Architecture students have access to facilities and student services in both institutions

Wider Student Support:

The Manchester School of Architecture is a collaboration between the Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester. Both Universities contribute to the resources and management of the School. Architecture students have access to facilities and student services in both institutions.

Student Support at Manchester Metropolitan University:

The Student Support Officer for the Faculty is the first point of contact for student support issues relating to studying at Manchester Metropolitan University. The Student Support Officer is

available to meet with students by appointment on a one-to-one basis, in confidence.

Learning Support at Manchester Met:

[The Disability Service](#) provides information, advice and support to disabled students with Specific Learning Difficulties. Advice on learning support can be found on their website.

Counselling, Health and Wellbeing Service at Manchester Met:

[The Counselling, Health and Wellbeing Service](#) at Manchester Met offers the chance to talk to someone in confidence about any personal problems you may have. Further information can be found on their website.

Student Support at University of Manchester:

The Student Experience Administrator is responsible for overseeing student support across the School of Architecture. Students can contact the Student Experience Administrator if they have any queries or need advice about support services available at University of Manchester.

The Disability Co-ordinator can help implement the disability support plans, which are agreed for students by the Disability Support Office. Architecture students can contact The Disability Co-ordinator directly if they need any advice on procedures for registering and support available. Students must register for disability support at both institutions although UoM specifically focus on the exam support. The Disability Co-ordinator is available to see students between 10am-4pm when the Student Information Desk is open.

MA Architecture + Urbanism students can use their University of Manchester login and password, to access the student portal, which has links to support services websites.

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| 42 | Programme Specific Student Evaluation |
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The Programme complies with current institutional evaluation guidance.

NB University guidance on [Evaluation of Student Opinion](#) is available from the CASQE

SECTION F – MAPPING

MAP I

ASSESSMENT /OUTCOMES MAP

The tables below indicate where the Manchester Met GOs and the PLOs occur in the credit units of the programme

Map guide:

GO = Manchester Met Graduate Learning Outcomes (Section 23)

PLO – Programme Learning Outcomes (Section 26) – add more lines as appropriate

✓ insert as appropriate

| Level 7 | Research Methodologies and Events | | Cities and Urbanism: Ideologies and Futures | | Studio A | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Assignment Essay (50%) | Assignment Event (50%) | Assignment Presentation (50%) | Assignment Essay (50%) | Assignment Concept (50%) | Assignment Presentation (50%) |
| GO 1 | | | | | x | x |
| GO 2 | | x | | | x | x |
| GO 3 | | x | x | | | x |
| GO 4 | | x | | x | | |
| GO 5 | | | | | | x |
| GO 6 | x | | x | x | | x |
| GO 7 | x | | | x | | x |
| PLO 1 | | | x | x | x | x |
| PLO 2 | | x | x | x | | x |
| PLO 3 | x | | x | x | x | x |
| PLO 4 | x | | x | x | | |
| PLO 5 | | x | | | | x |
| PLO 6 | x | | | | | x |

| Level 7 | Studio B | | Studio C | | Dissertation | |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Assignment Proposal (50%) | Assignment Research (50%) | Assignment Development (50%) | Assignment Submission (50%) | Assignment Preparation (50%) | Assignment Submission (50%) |
| GO 1 | | x | x | | | |
| GO 2 | | | | x | | |
| GO 3 | | x | | | | x |
| GO 4 | | x | | | x | |
| GO 5 | x | | | | x | |
| GO 6 | | x | | | x | |
| GO 7 | | | | x | | x |
| PLO 1 | x | x | | | x | |
| PLO 2 | | | | x | x | x |
| PLO 3 | x | | | x | | |
| PLO 4 | | x | | | x | x |
| PLO 5 | | x | x | | x | |
| PLO 6 | | x | | x | | x |

SECTION G

Approved Modifications to Programme Specification since Approval/Last Review

The following log provides a cumulative of minor and major modifications made to the Programme Specification since its approval/last review.

| FAQSC Reference (or PARM ref for Major Modifications requiring strategic approval) | Programme Specification Title (specify award titles/routes affected by change) | Brief Outline of Minor Modification/ Major Modification (Minor - include level & title of units & a brief description of modification) (Major - include details of change such as new routes, pathways etc.) | Date of FAQSC Approval (or PARM event) | Approval effective from: | Details of cohort of students who will be affected by the modification (e.g. students entering Level 5 wef September 2014 onward) |
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