Course Specification

MA
INTERIOR DESIGN (ONLINE)



Arts University Bournemouth

About the Course Handbook

This Handbook provides you with basic information about your course. Through the approved course specification, it provides you with the aims and outcomes of your course and outlines the content and how this will be delivered.

The course is subject to a rigorous process of quality assurance and enhancement. This may result in changes to individual units as the course develops, to ensure that the relevance and quality of the course is upheld. You will be consulted by a member of the course team before any changes are made.

Information in this Handbook should be used in conjunction with the HE Assessment Regulations. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are aware of the regulations that apply to your course and you should refer to the regulations throughout your studies. If you have any questions, you should speak to your Course Leader, or member of the course team. The Assessment Regulations can be located on the Induction section of Canvas, or https://aub.ac.uk/regulations

Important information about key policies which apply to your academic studies is available on the Induction section of Canvas. Please view this material on the Induction section of Canvas.

If you would like a copy of this Handbook in an alternative format, please contact equalities@aub.ac.uk.

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

The Course Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **MA Interior Design** course and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate they pass the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each module may be found on Canvas, within each module that you undertake.

Key Course Information	
Final Award	Master of Arts
Course Title	Interior Design
Award Title	MA Interior Design
Teaching institution (eg AUB, NSA)	AUB Online
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Professional accreditation	N/A
Length of course / mode of study	2 years part-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 7
Subject benchmark statement	QAA Master's degree characteristics
Language of study	English
Date of Validation	May 2022
Date of most recent review	N/A
Date course specification written/revised	May 2022

Postgraduate Taught Degree Ethos

The Master's course recognises individuals and their aspirations, and celebrates ideas, making, and creative risk-taking. Our guiding principle is to offer distinctive, exciting and challenging opportunities for you to engage in your respective subject disciplines in order to critically engage with, and redefine, your particular approaches to your practices and position them within your chosen external, creative, economic, and cultural environment.

We support this principle through our passionate engagement with interdisciplinary and collaborative practices, with the integration of theory and practice, with our understanding of the particularities of individual practitioners and the broader world, global view, and with an attitude to career development that creates a dialogue between professionalism and risk taking.
Such a context affords possibilities to engage with fresh, often unpredictable and certainly challenging methodologies and techniques with which you can research, test, develop, interrogate and challenge, through forms of making that enable you to reflect on your own practice and subject discipline. Whilst you will be encouraged to develop your own themes, relationships between the aesthetic, the political, the ethical and 'value' are ever-present, and the courses support your engagement with what are often difficult contemporary issues.

Crucial to this endeavour, is that you demonstrate a committed passion for your practice and the particular media within your chosen subject discipline or field of study. Each course devises specific discipline-focused project work to enable you to be suitably informed in taking the right path towards your chosen career in a diverse range of professions /industries or progress to further study at doctorate level. This discipline focus is, however, enhanced by

your experience of interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches and activities which enrich your journey. Different levels of teaching delivery structure your learning experience in such a way as to enable you to take broad, overarching transdisciplinary issues or questions, and ground them within the specificities of your discipline and individual practice. Our focus on the relationships between personal professional development and the development of communities of practice through sharing and collaboration is underpinned by the unique AUB reputation for truly collaborative working across disciplines. Through involvement in cross-course groups, shared lectures and other MA activities you will have opportunities to work together with other MA students to form a 'postgraduate network' that will facilitate a wider dialogue around art and design, sustainability, ethics, the political and the often-global reach of creative industries and professions. Our ethos focuses on not only developing your systematic and critical understanding of knowledge and of the application of that knowledge in an appropriate, professional context but also in having the resolve, the skills and the acumen to exercise initiative and personal responsibility in a world which is asking many questions of all of us with respect to our abilities and desires in coexisting with a global community.

In other words, our ethos focuses on the ability for our graduates not only to develop their careers and be employable but also to be engaged in the redefinition of what employment might look like in what are times of tremendous social, political, economic, and ecological change, and indeed upheaval.

Course Description

There is a need, and high demand, for designers who can create spaces, buildings and environments to achieve, through research, outcomes which are not only creative and diverse but also recognise current challenges such as designing for sustainability, wellbeing, diversity and disability. The MA Interior Design on-line programme will offer a unique opportunity for a new generation of designers including existing professionals, who would like to blend research and practice with creative theory and to be involved with the rapidly changing needs of the user. As well as having the added bonus of the award being offered flexibly, on-line and direct from Arts University Bournemouth, the MA Interior Design programme is a platform for professionals wanting to further their ambitions for employment or professional practice in the interior, spatial, or architectural interior design industry. This unique course offers a flexible varied curriculum combining theory and practical elements, aimed at graduates or professionals practicing or wanting to practice in the exciting, diverse and growing field of interior design. Underpinned by sustainability including the benefits of Biophilic Design, the programme also considers interior design in the broader context. Discussion and theoretical exploration, linked to evidence-based design solutions, encourages individuals to engage with a collaborative approach to designing interiors, installations or buildings focusing on solutions and spaces for occupants, in a variety of self-selected environments.

With a network of industry professional connections, the modules within the course are aimed at providing designers and graduates from industry related fields, with the opportunity to enhance their research, knowledge and understanding of a range of key sectors. These sectors include both domestic and commercial environments such as retail, hospitality, leisure, education, exhibition, and healthcare design. The commercial modules will engage students with the concepts and tensions related to the changing landscape of customer experience versus economics within the commercial industry, which will challenge and promote new ways of thinking. The domestic research and design areas focuses on diverse cultural ways of living within the community, multigenerational living, the need for changes in educational design and the workplace, plus the design for the changing needs of the aging population. The multi-faceted elements of the programme encourage new ways of creative thought, each of the seven core modules will look at existing problems and how designers can contribute to the changing needs of users in a creative and experimental way. Key to the underpinning knowledge is how to re-purpose and re-use existing structures and spaces

using a sustainable approach, students will explore methods of historical re-generation of buildings, stripping back and utilising materials and spaces to add to the sustainable dialogue. Starting discussion points such as collaboration, experience, transition, inclusivity and diversity will translate into new interior design solutions for designers to spearhead a future, sustainable existence.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

1. Advance students' prior knowledge in design industry practices with a clear emphasis on producing professionals in interior design, who are work-ready and engaging at the forefront of practice.

2. Foster a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, informed by a focus on the interior design industry.

3. Nurture an appropriate understanding of research techniques and advanced scholarship to show broad awareness and deep evaluative understanding of different creative practices, applicable to designing for interiors.

4. Understand the deployment of advanced research skills that underpin the management of complex design projects specifically focused on enhancing usability in a variety of situations and contexts, and in doing so be able to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively.

5. Provide students with key skills for employability through input from high-profile industry professionals, making them aware of the attributes and levels of commitment needed to succeed in the sector, to be champions of interior design.

6. Produce critically aware and logical thinking professionals that understand existing and emerging forms of new technologies, to innovate and develop sustainable strategies of design in commercial sectors, both domestic and international.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Produce professionally relevant work at the forefront of Interior Design practice.

2. Demonstrate a critical awareness of problems and insights and respond to them through your Interior Design practice.

3. Link research techniques and advanced scholarship to different creative practices appropriate to Interior Design.

4. Highlight ways in which advanced research skills can be used to enhance usability in varied contexts. Furthermore, to apply these skills to drive the management of complex design projects.

5. Demonstrate through practice, the acquisition of the specialist and transferrable skills necessary for employment within Interior Design.

6. Demonstrate through innovation an awareness of new technologies, sustainability requirements in a logical and critically aware way.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:
- Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's degree characteristics
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- QAA Art and Design Benchmark Statement 2017

AUB Regulatory Framework and Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

Lectures
Lectures are pre-recorded videos integrated with the module content providing acquisition of knowledge around key issues, ideas, and contexts. In addition, each module may have up to two guest lectures provided by a relevant non-AUB speaker from industry or academia to provide additional insights into the module topics.

Seminars
These are optional, online, weekly events that provide more opportunities for live discussion and interaction with tutors or fellow students. They are led by the Module Tutor and provide an opportunity for you to share your perspective and seek guidance or clarity on course content and assessments. Seminars do not take place in the final module when they are replaced by individual tutorials.

Supervisory Tutorials
These are one to one tutorials that take place in the final module where you can discuss the development and progress of your project. They are used to air specific issues raised through the work, provide critical observation, and recommend new directions and research strategies.

Discussion Fora
These are asynchronous spaces where you can post messages, ask questions, and discuss ideas with tutors or fellow students. You will be encouraged to engage in critical debate, share ideas or progress on your work with the wider cohort.

Online Learning Resources
These include recorded videos, texts, diagrams, images as well as reading lists and links to other online material. Technical and making skills are demonstrated through a mixture of recorded sessions and explanatory texts.

Assessment

Each module is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the module. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement, and also gives you regular feedback on how your learning is developing.

For every module of your course, we will inform you of what you are expected to learn; what you have to submit; how your work will be assessed; and the deadline for presenting your work for assessment. This is made available on Canvas, within each module that you undertake.

You will receive a final mark for each module in the form of a percentage, which will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). Each component of assessment is graded using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each grade. The only marks available within any ten-point band are *2, *5 and *8 (e.g. 62, 65, 68). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

All learning outcomes must be passed to successfully complete the module.
You are assessed, broadly speaking in two ways: formatively and summatively.

Formative assessment provides feedback that will help you to develop your learning. It should be seen as 'ongoing' assessment in the sense that it enables you to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses and address them appropriately. Formative assessment may take place in tutorials, seminars, critiques, online quizzes and other discussions about your work.

Summative assessment generally takes place at the end of a module of study. It is an overall evaluation of your acquisition of the skills and knowledge developed in that part of the course.

Other assessment methods include *Criterion-referenced assessment* which occurs through use of Learning Outcomes in Module Assessments, and *Ipsative assessment* where the iterative nature of some aspects of delivery provide opportunities for gauging the student's current level of performance with previous levels of performance. Ipsative assessment is fed-back in individual tutorials.

The work to be assessed generally takes the form of written documents or practical outcomes: assessed reports, digital portfolios, reflective journals, illustrative studies, artefacts and installations, physical and digital models

Non-assessed essential skills:
Project planning – Good time and project planning contribute to successful outcomes especially when project managing. Students are expected to show good time management and work outcomes. This is recorded in the personal development reflective portfolio.

Presentations – In conjunction with the Portfolio, presentation skills are a key element when working in teams and presenting ideas. Throughout the degree, students are expected to produce coursework and present it to an audience.

Students will be asked to complete a series of projects and tasks given in the form of a project brief. Self and peer feedback during regular group and individual discussions will be an essential element in the maturation of ideas and practical development. Students will be expected, during critiques and other discussions, to display a critical and reflective approach to their own work.

Formative feedback and feed forward are considered a vital part of the assessment process. More formal oral and/or written formative feedback is given at key identified points, usually during student led presentations of work in progress.

Students are expected to have an underpinning knowledge in their subject area and to be able to communicate proficiently via software such as AUTO CAD or software of the student's choice. The module briefs will be given and explained with core information as a guide to research areas. Students will be expected to produce module outcomes based on their own research evidence, developed and explained visually and via referenced text. Connections with industry providing research evidence to inform design decisions will be the focus of learning.

Award of Merit or Distinction

A Master's Degree with Award or Distinction may be awarded. Only modules at Level 7 contribute towards the determination of a Merit or Distinction.

You should refer to the Academic Regulations, which are available on the Student Hub, for further information on assessment and awards.

Course Structure

The course is structured around 12 study blocks of 15 credits each, modules can be constructed out of multiple study blocks to make 30, 45, or 60 credit modules. Each year comprises 6 study blocks.

All students are registered for the award of Master of Arts; however, exit awards are available if you leave the course early. If you successfully complete a level of the course, you will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) you must have achieved a minimum of 60 credits at Level 7 including the first introduction module; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

For the award of Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip), you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 7 including all taught modules; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

For the award of Master of Arts (MA), you must have achieved 180 credits, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

Course Content

The course content includes an introduction module, seven key course modules and a final major project module which includes research methods.

Contextual/reflective Journal

The Contextual/reflective Journal is introduced within each introductory module, it is not part of the assessment of most modules but will be an important part of reflection and knowledge engagement throughout all modules within the course. It is an illustrated, written submission that documents practice through evidencing a wide range of attributes including: academic engagement, reflective critical evaluation (of your own practice), critical analysis (through practice and literature reviews), processual thinking, technical and specialist skills, and professionalism.

The Contextual/reflective Journal provides a space for you to map your evaluation and application of design and research methods. Projects might potentially use one or more research methods selected from a wealth of methods that have emerged in design literature. These methods provide ways of obtaining data, of analysing it and of testing your conclusions. Methodology involves the study of methods, and you will begin to identify the assumptions that underlie different methods and to develop the skills necessary to coordinate them and to synchronise them with your theoretical framework.

The Journal highlights insights in three important areas:

- The context that informed your practice: the relevant: theories, subjects, issues, political perspectives, designers, artists, images, literature and so forth.
- The research that is ‘on’, ‘for’, or ‘in’ your practice – this includes: research on the ways you practice/the outcomes of your practice; your own research undertaken to enable your practice; and research that is embedded in the practice.
- The developmental aspect of the project: both in terms of your own personal development as a creative practitioner, and the processual development of an emerging body of work.

Executive summary
The executive summary will be a limited word count summarising the outcomes of the contextual/reflective journal.

Key activities developed within the course:

During the MA degree, students will be guided through the following activities:

1. Collaborative on-line research skills.
2. Essay writing to academic standards.
3. Digital portfolio making, artefact, installation production skills.
4. Presentation and communication skills including reflective journal and evidence based design development skills.
5. Material specification for sustainability and project management skills.
6. Entrepreneurial skills through creative original design production.
7. Creative explorative outcomes will be investigated to answer current research gap needs in both practical and theoretical modules.

Key issues addressed in the curriculum include:

1. The current sustainable agenda and global crisis avoidance, how designers can contribute to the United Nation's sustainable goals.
2. Multi-generational living, design for accommodating the needs of the aging population in the home, work and learning environments. Culture diversity and inclusivity within community living, exploration of multigenerational living.
3. Healthcare provision for the elderly, design for disability. Combining wellbeing with healthcare to promote longevity and healthy living.
4. Exploration of old meets new, re-purposing and stripping back for re-use to counteract potential housing shortages and encourage the restoration of historic buildings.
5. Retail and the economy; how designers can help towards the re-generation of the retail and hospitality sectors through creative customer experience. Moving back to physical shopping and away from on-line to promote a healthier way of living.

Course Modules

CODE	MODULE TITLE	CREDITS
Introduction		
IDD700	Introduction Module	15 credits
Carousel modules		
IDD701	Specialism/Practice	15 credits
IDD702	Sustainable futures	15 credits
IDD703	Collaboration	15 credits
IDD704	Experience	15 credits
IDD705	Reinvent	15 credits
IDD706	Transition	15 credits
IDD707	Inclusivity	15 credits
Final stage		
IDD708	Research methods	15 credits
IDD709	Master's project	45 credits

Course Model

Your workload is balanced across a number of consecutive modules which all run independently. There are three stages of study and two progression points in the course where you move from the **Introduction module** to the seven carousel modules, and from the carousel stage to the final two project modules, **Research Methods** and **Master's project**. There is no progression within the carousel modules which are designed to be taken in any order as determined by your intake time of year. All modules are a core part of the course and there are no options to select or deselect modules.

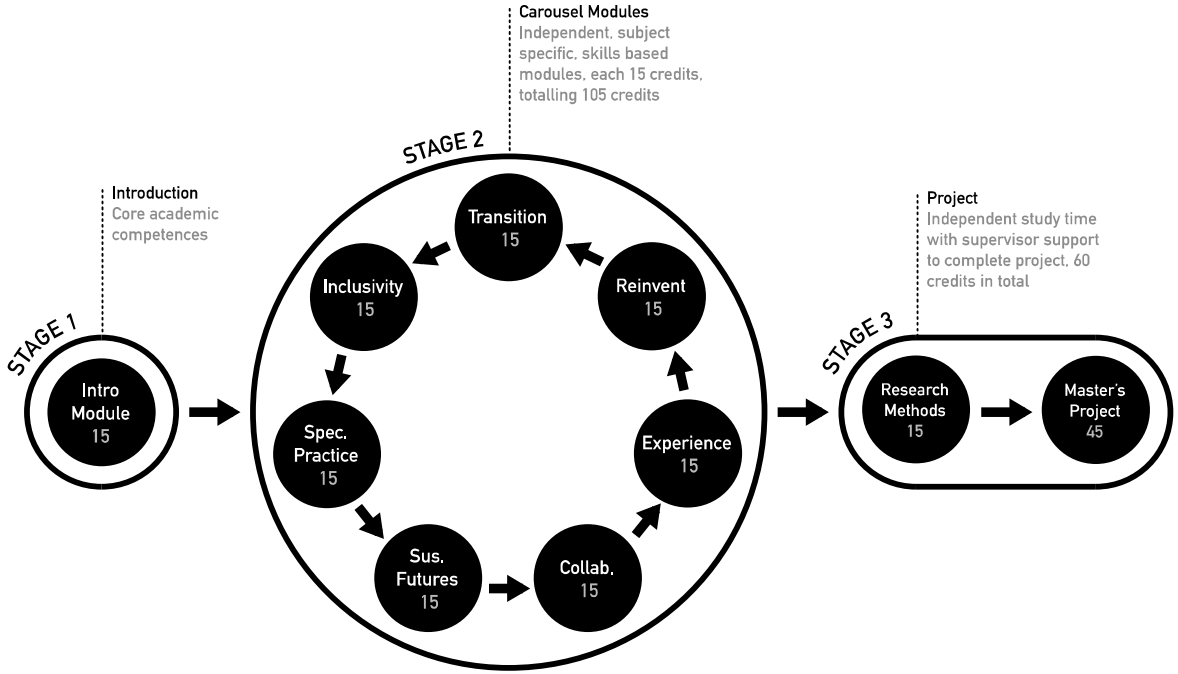


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