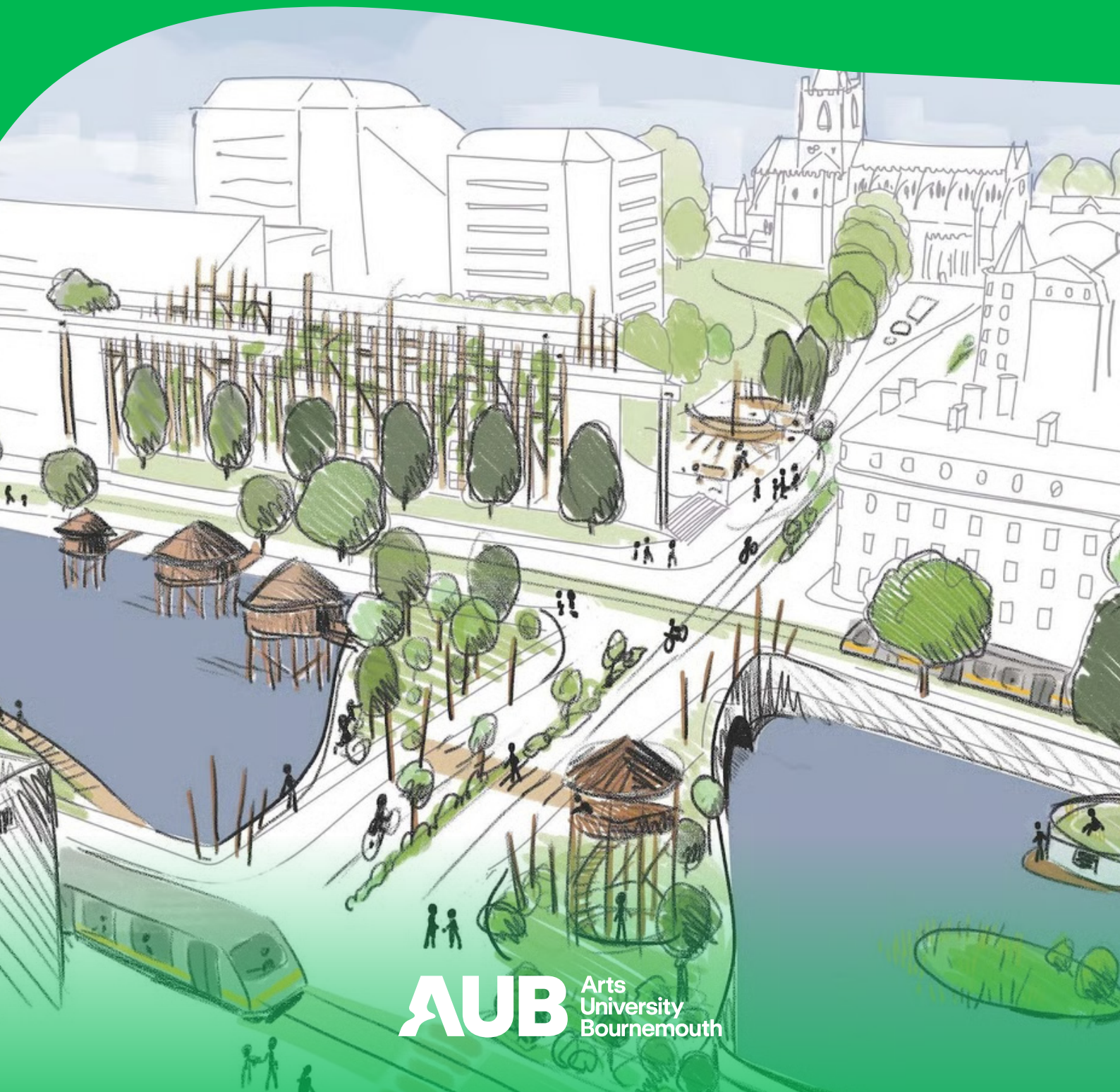
Course Specification

MA
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDIES
(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 Programme 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 Landscape Architecture Studies** course and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if 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	MA Landscape Architecture Studies
Award Title	MA Landscape Architecture Studies
Teaching institution (e.g. 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

The AUB Online MA Landscape Architecture Studies is a two-year, part time course aimed at students from a wide variety of backgrounds with a passion for landscape. The course is designed to provide a broad foundation of critical knowledge and skills in landscape architecture for students wishing to build on their current subject knowledge, or to transfer from related subject areas.

The course has been structured to provide you with critical and creative thinking and landscape architectural skills framed within social, ecological, and environmental contexts of contemporary regional and global relevance. Focusing on the integration of theory and practice, you will investigate a range of topics at the interfaces between people, landscapes, cities, and nature, and develop understanding of the problems and opportunities facing landscape change in both urban and rural landscapes, covering issues that relate to both individual placemaking and wider infrastructure.

Landscape Architecture as a subject can connect people across disciplines, cultures, and communities with the common goal of creating places that have a positive impact on society, culture, and the environment. The online platform of the MA Landscape Architecture Studies course allows you to benefit not only from a flexible approach to learning, but critically to benefit from exposure to different cultural and professional contexts in a creative and supportive learning community where collaborative working, and critical practice, are encouraged. The course takes this approach from the context of the Arts University Bournemouth where all courses share an interest in making and aspire to innovation, collaboration, and a connected learning experience.

Landscape practice offers a huge diversity of careers, and this course will support you in developing a sense of your own values and charting your own career path. You will develop an advanced portfolio of landscape skills, techniques, knowledge and understanding to develop your career or to prepare for further specialised study. On graduation you will be equipped for landscape practice outside of the UK, or in landscape-related disciplines in the UK and around the world. You will also develop valuable transferable and generic skills in literacy, graphic design, project management and communication, enabling you to work in a range of other environmental areas and professions.

N.B. The MA in Landscape Architecture Studies is not designed to provide a complete training for becoming a (UK) Chartered Landscape Architect and is not recognised professionally by the (UK) Landscape Institute. However, the course provides a basis for further education, career development and work in a variety of areas as well as opportunity for specialised study. For those students wishing to pursue a career as a Landscape Architect in the UK, the course offers a foundation to further education in Landscape Architecture, with students on completion potentially able to access a Landscape Institute accredited 180 credits Masters course in the UK.

Approach and Ethos

The focus of this course is on providing you with an in-depth perspective on landscape design practice, addressing the need for a resilient, equitable and sustainable relationship of human culture with our planet's ecosystem.

The 'Climate Emergency', shortages of land, food, water, and crucial raw materials for manufacturing and energy production, all demand that landscape professionals focus ever more closely on their own practice, and how they make the argument to our clients and project stakeholders for a more impactful approach to countering these challenges. The global pandemic has combined with these challenges to highlight the critical importance to human (and wider environmental) wellbeing of the 'Green and Blue Infrastructure' and the inhabited environments, stitching together our cites, settlements, cultivated landscapes and wildernesses, and linking communities to the resources of the 'natural' environments which surround them.

There is now, more than ever, a recognition and imperative that all involved in the design and management of these places, and their communities, recognise that landscapes must be conceptualised, designed, and managed as part of an interrelated continuum, more reflective of the 'nested-ness' and resilience of natural ecosystems. The course will support you to critically analyse the components involved in this enquiry, including cultural and philosophical contexts, policy and legislative frameworks, analytical and design processes, principles, tools, and methodologies as part of a multi-disciplinary perspective on complex environmental, cultural, and economic challenges and opportunities to fundamentally embody sustainability into our conceptualisation of landscape.

This course will explore the landscape architecture agenda from three interrelated perspectives:

Environmental Resilience

As a student, you will analyse landscapes for biodiversity, and generate possibilities for their sustainable design and management, in resilient, nested relationships. Designing effectively with nature both maximises the benefits of ecosystem services and increases benefits to people. The course will equip you to bring this integrated approach to your design process, allowing you to develop resilient human infrastructure that enhances biodiversity. The Course takes a holistic approach to placemaking, supporting you to tackle design proposals in the wider context of ecosystems, watersheds, and human communities, and to embed resilience against future challenges like climate change and sea level rise.

Social, Cultural and Economic Resilience for Human Well Being

The course believes that successful inclusive landscapes are looked after by resilient communities who benefit by living in them. You will learn how to design and manage landscapes for social and economic, as well as environmental benefit. A keynote of the course is a focus around human wellbeing on an individual and community scale. You will explore landscape design promoting important issues such as sustainable movement and circulation, equitable access to healthier food and natural environments, as well as improved

residential landscape and townscape quality. The course will engage you in placemaking and collaborative design processes to meet a community's challenges effectively and equitably around energy and food poverty, as well as inclusive physical, sensory, learning, and cultural access.

Whole Life Carbon and Natural Cycles

The course takes a 'Cradle to Cradle' approach to landscapes and the carbon challenge. You will explore design and management methodologies to deliver landscapes for water efficiency and reduced embodied carbon. You will be challenged to audit your practice to maximise the use of sustainably sourced products and recyclates, and to minimise dependence on processes and products that depend on material extraction, construction-related greenhouse gas emissions and waste disposal. In the fourth dimension you will be encouraged to consider and design into your landscapes a reduction in operational energy through smart nature centred management and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Course Aims

The course aims to contextualise your landscape design practice within a wider framework of interconnected systems, and to explore the benefits which this approach might bring to your professional working practice and to wider social, economic, and environmental agendas, within which you are working, through understanding the wide-ranging debates and themes that constitute the resilient landscapes around us.

Your own interests and aspirations are encouraged. The course will support your personal development towards a creative contribution to landscape architecture and the wider world after graduation.

The overall learning and teaching aims of the course, which also reflect the mission and aims of the Arts University Bournemouth, are:

A1. To engage critically and/or creatively with a range of environments, landscapes, and landscape practices at different scales, encouraging speculation and risk-taking, whilst developing a critical awareness of the key issues, scope, and potentials of the field
A2. To develop practical competencies and modes of representation to help you communicate your ideas to professional and non-professional audiences
A3. To provide a stimulating forum for critical debate and inter-disciplinary approaches to landscape practice and environmental change, encouraging research and the development of analytical, cognitive, and conceptual skills
A4. To develop and extend critical landscape literacy, knowledge, understanding, and skills, in order that you might evaluate and extend your own autonomous landscape practice
A5. To prepare you for further education, career development and work in a variety of interdisciplinary, creative, and contemporary landscape and environment practice contexts, as well as opportunity for specialised study.

Course Outcomes

1. Ability to generate complex landscape proposals showing understanding of critical social and environmental issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, where appropriate, ability to test new hypotheses and speculations
2. Ability to use, evaluate, and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, critically appraise and explain project proposals
3. Critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued, and original written work relating to landscape practice, theory, and design

4. Ability to evaluate and apply knowledge, understanding, and skills in the technical, theoretical, and practical concerns of landscape practice, and to integrate these into strategic and detailed design proposals
6. Ability to take the initiative and make appropriate decisions in complex and unpredictable circumstances using problem solving skills and professional judgement and to identify individual learning needs

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:
- Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's degree characteristics
- Subject Benchmark Statement: Landscape Architecture (2019)
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

AUB Regulatory Framework and Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations
This course is also developed with awareness of the Landscape Institute's Competency Framework, specifically:
- Creative problem solving
- Healthy places
- Inclusive environments
- Landscapes as systems
- Physical and social context of sites/places/landscapes
- Quality of landscape
- Research and analysis
- Stakeholder and/or community engagement
- Sustainability, climate, and resilience

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.

Professional Development Portfolio
Throughout your course you will be encouraged to develop your own Professional Development portfolio, a means by which you can record, monitor, build and reflect on your personal development and learning, both in and around the course (skills, interests, research, collaborations etc.). It links with the Learning Agreement made in the Introductory module and is intended to support the development of your Comprehensive Master's Project at the end of the course. It also supports the reflective practice that is key to more independent learning at Master's level, helping you to achieve your full potential and become an effective and critically reflective landscape practitioner.

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.

Award of Merit or Distinction

A Masters' Degree (MA) with Merit or Distinction may be awarded. Only modules at Level 7 contribute towards the determination of a Merit of Distinction.

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

Course Structure

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

Introduction: Where I Stand: Landscape and Resilience is the first module of the MA Landscape Architecture and provides a foundation for the course and an opportunity for you to consider your own position and approach.

The course then moves through a series of independent **Carousel Modules 1-7**, each focusing on a key aspect of the environmental, ethical, theoretical, and social frameworks in which landscape architecture operates, while developing your techniques, abilities, and competencies through responding to associated project briefs and outputs. These carousel modules are self-contained and designed to be non-linear so they can be taken in any order as determined by your intake time of year.

Landscape Research Methods and Strategies follows the Carousel Modules, forming a foundation to the final Comprehensive Master's Project, and providing you with a theoretical and practical grounding in research and research design methods, while giving you the opportunity to identify and test your area of research, key sources, and methods.

In the **Comprehensive Master's Project** during the final two modules of the course, you will develop an extensive individual piece of self-led work that allows you to develop further your own interests and aspirations, and to reflect upon your approach to landscape architecture. You may follow either a Design Route, developing a substantial landscape design project supported by a written and illustrated report, or a Dissertation Route, undertaking an extended piece of independent research presented as a written dissertation. Your own interests and aspirations are encouraged. The course will support your personal development towards a creative and critical contribution to landscape architecture and the wider world after graduation.

Course Modules

CODE	MODULE TITLE	CREDITS
Introduction		
LSD700	Where I Stand: Landscape and Resilience	15 credits
Carousel modules		
LSD701	What is Landscape: Analysis, Evaluation and Representation	15 credits
LSD702	Landscape and Culture: History, Philosophy and Society	15 credits
LSD703	The Big Picture: Landscape as Infrastructure and Ecosystem	15 credits
LSD704	Gardens and Designed Landscapes	15 credits
LSD705	Resilient Placemaking: Restorative Landscapes for Ecological, Social and Environmental Wellbeing	15 credits
LSD706	Landscape and Equity: Participatory Design and Social Placemaking for Human and Planetary Justice	15 credits
LSD707	Urban Design: A Language Primer	15 credits
Research and Project		
LSD708	Landscape Research Methods and Strategies	15 credits
LSD709	Comprehensive 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 introductory module **Where I Stand** to the seven carousel modules, and from the carousel stage to the final two project modules, **Landscape Research Methods** and **Comprehensive 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.

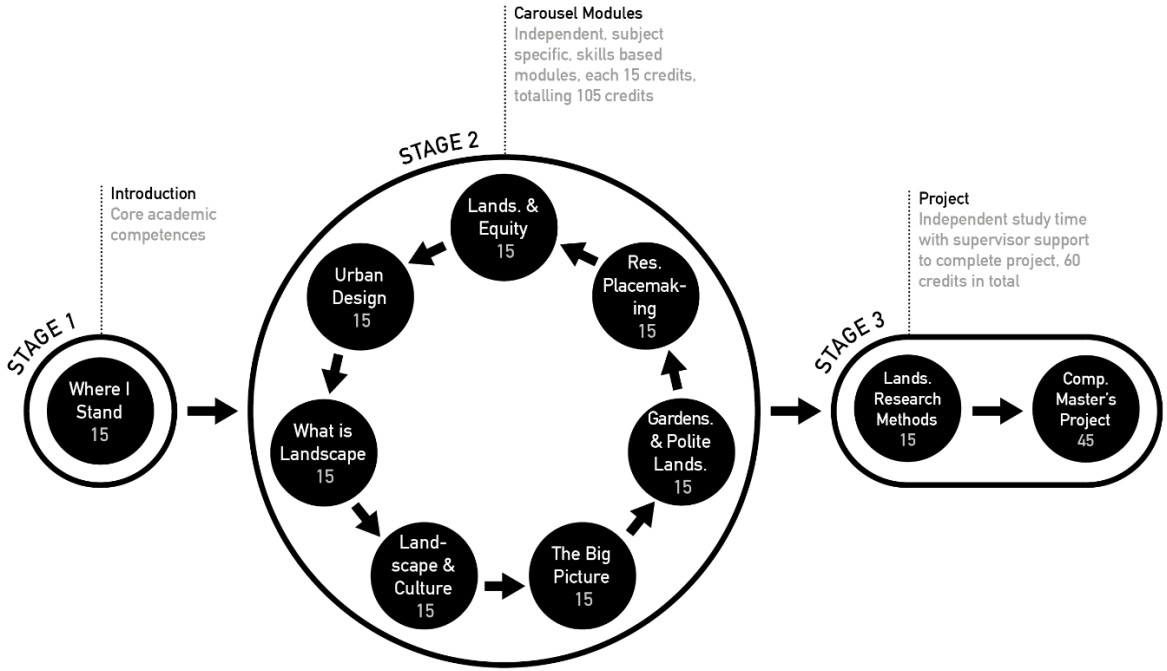


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