COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	**M.Arch Sustainable Architecture**
Intermediate Awards Available	PGCert Sustainable Architecture PGDip Sustainable Architecture
Teaching Institution(s)	Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 9AZ
Alternative Teaching Institutions	none
UEL Academic School	Architecture, Computing and Engineering
UCAS Code	
Professional Body Accreditation	Under the Architects Act 1997, the Architects Registration Board (ARB) has the responsibility for prescribing the qualifications and practical experience required for entry onto the UK Register of Architects. Following internal validation, professional body accreditation will be sought from ARB. The current M.Arch (validated by UEL 2017) is prescribed by ARB at Part 2 level until May 2023.
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	• Architecture (2020) • Masters' degrees characteristics (2020) • The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) • Architectural Technology (2019)
Additional Versions of this Course	Current M.Arch (validated by UEL 2017)
Date Specification Last Updated	2017

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- gain a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current architectural and environmental problems to develop new insights from study at the forefront of understanding of sustainable architecture;
- develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques to become a self-reflective architectural practitioner with a clear philosophical position, and the ability to develop built environment solutions that mitigate climate change and environmental problems whilst improving quality of life and human well-being;

- develop the confidence, aptitude and understanding to show originality in the application of knowledge, together with a good practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry can be used to create and interpret knowledge central to architectural sustainability;
- develop into a rounded, self-reflective learner who is proficient to critically evaluate current research methods and interpretation of results and to propose new hypotheses and solutions to technical and environmental problems;
- demonstrate that you have covered the subject material necessary to gain the Part 2 qualifications as prescribed by the ARB at the appropriate learning level.

What you will learn:

Knowledge

1. the planning and designing of settlements that relate to human needs, human scale and environmental challenges;
2. the complex influences that technical, political, legal, social, cultural and non-cultural factors have on the demand, use, provision and supply of energy;
3. the building industry, its changing nature and the role of the architect within it;
4. the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences and how these have influenced architectural design.

Thinking skills

1. appropriate technological building solutions to create safe and comfortable buildings that have minimal impacts on the environment and positive influences on the health and well-being of occupants.
2. how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design;
3. the context of the architect and the construction industry, including the architect's role in the processes of procurement and building production, in relation to relevant legislation;
4. systematic, logical, rigorous, iterative and imaginative designing and thinking and the ability to make sound judgements;
5. the causes, seriousness, and urgency of environmental and climatic change with respect to how these factors influence sustainability thinking and the adaption of the built environment and society;
6. how to make informed decisions based upon an appraisal of available evidence combined with practical experience and directed research, in order to develop the ability to synergise theory and practice knowledge into deep understanding.

Subject-Based Practical skills

1. question and formulate evidence-based design briefs that address the socio-economic and environmental context;
2. design creative and imaginative buildings and built environments that combine aesthetics, user needs, environmental considerations and technical requirements;

3. generate complex design proposals showing understanding of current architectural issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, where appropriate, to test new hypotheses and speculations;
4. evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, critically appraise and explain design proposals clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
5. evaluate materials, processes and techniques that apply to complex architectural designs and building construction, and to integrate these into practicable design proposals;
6. become a self-reflective practitioner with the ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required to prepare for qualification as an architect;
7. undertake an extended independent piece of original research and writing on a topic within the field of sustainability and the built environment.

Skills for life and work (general skills)

1. improve self-confidence, the ability to act on own initiative and adopt leadership roles in relation to sustainability and the built environment and to prepare for the rigours and demands of employment;
2. analyse personal competences and interests with an increased awareness and the aim of developing a personal strategy for future professional development.

Learning and Teaching

The course delivery is structured around a blend of theoretical and applied learning, incorporating such aspects as studio teaching, design workshops, one-to-one and group tutorials, lecture presentations, written learning resources, numerical tasks, practical activities, small group seminars, student peer-to-peer presentations, group work tasks, and guidance from the academic team. The course will be focused on students gaining theoretical knowledge, understanding and the ability to critically evaluate the field of knowledge and apply that knowledge to the practice of an architect.

Learning is delivered through a combination of formal and informal methods.
Teaching and learning strategies include:

- Design studio – tutor guided and supported time developing individual designs with peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- Lectures – live lecture presentations, written lecture resources and audio/video-cast methods.
- Seminars – on-site face-to-face and through distance-learning methods (Teams)
- Tutorials – on-site face-to-face and through distance-learning methods (Teams, telephone);
- Practicals – demonstrations and practical workshops.
- Presentations – live individual or group presentations on-site, individual or group presentations submitted by distance-learning methods (i.e. through Teams), which comprise summative or formative coursework assignments;

Teams (supported by Moodle) will be the primary platform for delivering teaching for the periods between the on-site module teaching weeks and for providing materials

for self-led learning. Such materials include written and recorded lectures and notes, tutor hand-outs, handbooks, bibliographies, data, additional reading and extracts.

Each module is accompanied by a space on Teams and Moodle. In addition, the module tutor and support staff will use these facilities to address any common academic issues and will use Teams to contact students where necessary. It is essential therefore that students have easy and regular access to the Internet and reliable email. Each student is provided with both a CAT and UEL email address.

Whilst much coursework will be individual, enabling students to set their own schedule, for some modules students will be expected to work on a group project alongside other students from architecture or allied courses.

All students have access to the UEL electronic database and will be entitled to membership of the SCONUL scheme (providing access to other university libraries).

Knowledge is developed through

- Guided reading
- Lectures, tutorials, and other knowledge-based activities, with feedback
- Practical work activities
- Online discussions and activities

Thinking skills are developed through

- Reflective activities with feedback
- Tutorials
- Online discussions and activities

Practical skills are developed through

- IT activities with feedback
- Practical demonstrations and construction of buildings or parts of buildings
- Research skills-based activities with feedback

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Written, drawn and presented work
- Planning activities with feedback
- Project work

Assessment

All modules on the programme are core modules. There are no optional modules. Assessment is through coursework for each module, to be submitted at a pre-determined date after the module delivery The final award is achieved on the completion of the assessment tasks for each module. There are no formal written examinations..

The coursework is designed to ensure that the learning outcomes have been met and takes several forms including drawn, written, technical, and oral presentation exercises. These assessment methods are module-specific and include design projects, essays, reports, case studies numerical exercises and formal presentations, and culminate in the Final Design Project and associated Technical Research Report. The coursework from each module is set on a subject relevant to the module's learning outcomes.

In order to ensure that successful graduates meet all of the Architects' Registration Board (ARB) General Criteria and associated Graduate Attributes for the Prescription of Qualifications at part 2, students must pass all modules taken on the programme. Where a module has more than one assessable component, all component parts must be passed to complete the module.

The Final Design Project consists of 60 credits of the overall M.Arch SA award and all other modules make up 180 credits of the overall M.Arch SA. In order to commence the Final Design Project, Integrated design Project 1 and 2 plus Architectural Analysis Through Writing modules accounting for 75 credits have been completed successfully.

Knowledge is assessed by

- Coursework
- Essays
- Practical work and examinations
- Face-to-face tutorials

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Coursework
- Project work
- Face-to-face tutorials

Practical skills are assessed by

- Practical reports
- Build projects
- Portfolio completion

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Project work
- Written work
- Oral presentation
- Group work

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/ Option	Delivered	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
7	AR7400	Integrated Design Project 1 (IDP1)	30	Core	Year 1 Semester 1	NO
7	AR7410	Architectural Analysis Through Writing (AAW)	15	Core	Year 1 Semester 1	NO

7	AR7402	Professional Studies (PS)	15	Core	Year 1 Semester 1-2	NO
7	AR7403	Integrated Design Project 2 (IDP2)	30	Core	Year 1 Semester 2	NO
7	AR7411	Build (B)	30	Core	Year 1 Semester 2	NO
7	AR7412	Research Project (RP)	30	Core	Year 2 Semester 2-1	NO
7	AR7407	Technical Research Report (TRR)	30	Core	Year 2 Semester 1-2	NO
7	AR7408	Final Design Project (FDP)	60	Core	Year 2 Semester 1-2	NO
All modules for the course are core.						

The overall credit-rating of this course is 240 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

To gain a Postgraduate Certificate, you will need to obtain 60 credits at Level 7.
To gain a Postgraduate Diploma, you will need to obtain 120 credits at Level 7.
To obtain a Masters, you will need to obtain 240 credits at Level 7.

Course Specific Regulations

For acceptance onto the programme the following requirements apply:

1. Undergraduate degree carrying an exemption from ARB Part I or a relevant undergraduate degree. If you have a relevant undergraduate degree that does not carry an exemption from ARB's Part 1 examination, you will be required to successfully complete the ARB's Part 1 examination before you can register as an architect in the UK.
2. Digital portfolio of work.
3. IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) is required for applicants whose first language is not English.

4. This course is highly practical and requires attendance in person at CAT. If you live outside of the UK (you are exempt if you already have settled or pre-settled status or are resident in Ireland) and require a student visa you cannot study this course as we do not hold the required Student Sponsor license
5. A familiarity with Microsoft Office software, Adobe or equivalent presentation software and CAD software is desirable.
6. Students may be admitted with advanced standing through the recognition of credit or the accreditation of experiential or certificated learning according to the University of East London (UEL) Accreditation of (Experiential) Learning (A(E)L) policy.

   Application to this programme can only be made on-line at http://gse.cat.org.uk

7. Compensation of Assessment components:
   All modules on the programme are non-compensable. Students must pass all modules taken, and pass all parts thereof, in order to satisfy the Architects' Registration Board (ARB) that all of its General Criteria (GCs) listed in the modules for the Prescription of Qualifications and the Prescribed Examination at Part 2 level have been met.

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period. The duration of this course is 22 months full-time, and three calendar years part-time, enrolment is in September.

The time limit for completion of a course is six years after first enrolment on the course.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

The CAT web site: www.cat.org.uk/courses-and-training/graduate-school/
The course handbook and module descriptions: https://cat.org.uk/courses-and-training/graduate-school/courses/march-sustainable-architecture/

- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

All teaching takes place during one intensive teaching week each month at CAT. Full board at CAT can be provided if needed for students during these teaching weeks.(2022 costs £180 full board / £120 self-catering bunkhouse style accommodation for 6 days/nights) Most students stay on site to take advantage of the facilities and student activities. Students should budget for these costs during teaching weeks and a study tour each year (average cost of £300). Architecture courses required students to produce drawings and models, limited materials are available at CAT and students should consider additional costs for model making and reprographics (on average £200).

Alternative Locations of Delivery

This course is not available at any other location.