



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## COURSE SPECIFICATION

### *BA (Hons) Interior Architecture and Design*

Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships  
Department of Student and Academic Administration

July 2021

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# COURSE SPECIFICATION

<b>Course Title</b>	<b><i>BA (Hons) Interior Architecture and Design</i></b>
Final Award	<i>BA (Hons)</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE, BA</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>U2516PYC, C2516S / K120</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>3 years, 4 years with placement</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>September 2020 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Architecture</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="#"><i>Portsmouth School of Architecture</i></a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="#"><i>BA (Hons) Interior Architecture and Design</i></a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>None</i>
<a href="#"><u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u></a>	<i>Level 6</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

The BA (Honours) Interior Architecture and Design Programme aims to:

- Provide a professional course leading to a career as an Interior Architect or Designer, or the alternative diversification into an allied area of the design field.
- Provide a stimulating environment of learning and research which imbues an ethos of care through an engagement with pressing matters of concern.
- Situated ecologies, including the climate and flora and fauna (including fostering a concern for the conservation of the Earth's resources through the development of appropriate design responses to climate catastrophe).
- Responsibility of caring for co-existence: socially engaged practice, the commons, and well-being and safety of humans and non-humans and the planet.
- Creative ethic: architecture is always already politically engaged, and has a significant role to play in affording possibilities of equality, diversity, and inclusivity.
- The local global, in our work with scale, proximity, intimacy, and connections, including amongst and between cultures, identities, and bodies.
- Provide a broad, coherent and integrated pattern of education in design.
- Provide a breadth of knowledge of the extensive subject area of Interior Architecture and Design, including an understanding of the principles of design, technology and environment, histories and theories, cultural context, communication and management practice and law.
- Allow students to develop their own position on what represents a high standard of design and to decide where they stand in relation to the wide-ranging debate on the subject.
- Foster an enquiring spirit, intellectual curiosity, and a diversity of creativity in students; these coupled with the development of learning skills to enable them to reflect on and to affect the direction of their future creative lives and their own development needs.
- Encourage acquisition of wider knowledge beyond Interior Architecture and Design and an awareness of the potential for other areas of enquiry to inform the discipline.
- Foster in students an ability to investigate, conceptualise and develop the design of 3D objects and spaces, and to develop their designs through a process of self-critical reflection.
- Encourage the development of design skills, from the domains of cities and landscapes as they relate to interiors to those of the body's interactions with material and construction details, to engage with social, cultural, political, and environmental issues of the world that aim to contribute to the enhancement of lived experience.
- Foster in students a concern for the conservation of natural resources through the development of appropriate formal and technical responses to global issues such as climate catastrophe, and the developing debate and knowledge on how to respond.
- Provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career potential, with opportunities (if possible) to undertake a placement year or study abroad in a relevant area, with extra-curricular and curricular activities directly related to career development; with embedding the 'Hallmarks of a Portsmouth Graduate'; with support leading to postgraduate study opportunities.
- Equip graduates with transferable skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, communication, and teamwork, necessary for lifelong learning and flexibility in the context of a world in flux.

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

**A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Methods of investigation and preparation of briefs: Preparing and responding to design briefs of diverse scales and types, based on the client and user requirements, the way in which buildings fit into their local context, the social, environmental and ethical dimensions of interior architecture and design, and the need to relate buildings to human needs, aspirations and scale (GC, A&D)	Design Studio: a teaching environment conducive to creative practice which combines 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures. Site visits.  Opportunity for Placement year.	Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio  Placement: Activity log, essay
A2	The significance of the work of other creative practitioners and the need to critically review precedents relevant to the concept, design and function, of their own design proposals. (GC, A&D)	Design Studio: a teaching environment conducive to creative practice which combines 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures.  Contextual Studies: lectures with supporting seminars and includes field trips	Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio  Formative: Draft feedback Summative: Essays, presentations
A3	Principles of designing systems for environmental comfort and relevant precepts of sustainable design; major developments in current and emerging media and technologies in interior and architectural design. (GC, A&D)	Technology: lecture based with supporting seminars and workshops  Design Studio: 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures.	Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Presentations, reports, exhibition of artefacts  Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio

A4	The context of the designer and the construction industry, the creative practitioner's relationship with audiences, clients, markets, environments, users, consumers, participants, co-workers and co-creators within a professional environment (GA, A&D)	<p>Communication and Professional skills: Lectures with supporting seminars and includes elements of group work.</p> <p>Opportunity for placement year.</p> <p>Design Studio: 1-1 or group tutorials, Live-projects</p>	<p>Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Portfolios, presentations, reports, exhibition or artefacts</p> <p>Placement: Activity log and essay</p> <p>Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio</p>
A5	The broad critical and contextual dimensions of interior architecture and design including cultural, social and intellectual, histories and theories that influence the design of interiors and architecture, and the application of appropriate theoretical concepts to studio design projects. (GC, A&D)	<p>Contextual Studies: lectures with supporting seminars and includes field trips</p> <p>Design Studio: 1-1 or group tutorials, Live-projects</p>	<p>Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Presentations, reports, exhibition of artefacts</p> <p>Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio</p>

**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:**



LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Demonstrate proficiency in observation, investigation and enquiry to develop ideas through to outcomes from selecting and using materials, processes and environments; making connections between intention, process, outcome, context and methods of dissemination. (A&D)	Design Studio: a teaching environment conducive to creative practice which combines 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures. Site visits	Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio
B2	Conceive and present design projects of diverse scale, complexity, and type in a variety of contexts, using a range of media, satisfying aesthetic aspects, technical requirements and the needs of the user (GC)	Design Studio: a teaching environment conducive to creative practice which combines 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures. Site visits  Communication and Professional skills: Lectures with supporting seminars and includes elements of group work.	Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio  Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Portfolios, presentations, reports, exhibition or artefacts
B3	Understand the implications and potentials of current, alternative and emerging materials, processes, techniques and media that apply to interior design and construction, and of inter and multidisciplinary approaches to contemporary practice in art and design relevant to interior architecture and design. (GA, A&D)	Technology: lecture based with supporting seminars and workshops  Design Studio: 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures.	Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Presentations, reports, exhibition of artefacts  Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio

B4	Enquire into the discipline of interior architecture and design, their place within it, and the motivation to advance it, applying ethical values and principles to their work. (A&D)	<p>Communication and Professional skills: Lectures with supporting seminars and includes elements of group work.</p> <p>Opportunity for placement year.</p> <p>Design Studio: 1-1 or group tutorials, Live-projects</p>	<p>Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Portfolios, presentations, reports, exhibition or artefacts</p> <p>Placement: Activity log and essay</p> <p>Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio</p>
B5	Source and review relevant material, assimilating and articulating findings; navigate, select, retrieve, evaluate, manipulate and manage information from a variety of sources, in order to formulate reasoned arguments and to make and present sound judgments within a structured discourse relating to architectural and interior culture, theory and design (HAAD, A&D, GA)	<p>Contextual Studies: lectures with supporting seminars and includes field trips</p> <p>Design Studio: 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops</p>	<p>Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Presentations, reports, exhibition of artefacts</p> <p>Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio</p>

**C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Generate ideas, concepts, proposals, and solutions independently and/or collaboratively in response to set briefs, preparing designs that will address building users' requirements and comply with UK legislation, appropriate performance standards and health and safety requirements. (GC)	<p>Design Studio: a teaching environment conducive to creative practice which combines 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures. Site visits</p> <p>Communication and Professional skills: Lectures with supporting seminars.</p>	<p>Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio</p> <p>Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Portfolios, presentations, reports</p>
C2	Understand the nature of professionalism as well as the impact of projects on existing and proposed communities: the professional qualities needed for decision making in complex and unpredictable circumstances and for responding to the duties and responsibilities to clients, users, constructors, co-professionals and the wider society. (GC)	<p>Design Studio: a teaching environment conducive to creative practice which combines 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures. Site visits</p> <p>Communication and Professional skills: Lectures with supporting seminars.</p>	<p>Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio</p> <p>Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Portfolios, presentations, reports</p>

C3	Understand and respond to structural, constructional and environmental issues associated with interior architecture and design, the physical properties and characteristics of materials and components, and how they inform the design and its expression. (GC)	Technology: lecture based with supporting seminars and workshops  Design Studio: 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures.	Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Presentations, reports, exhibition of artefacts  Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio
C4	Communicate ideas and information in visual, oral and written forms; apply a range of communication methods and media to present ideas and design proposals to audiences in a clear, effective and engaging way. (GA, A&D)	Design Studio: a teaching environment conducive to creative practice which combines 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures. Site visits  Communication and Professional skills: Lectures with supporting seminars.	Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio  Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Portfolios, presentations, reports
C5	The creative application of fine arts, their relevance and impact on interior architecture and design and how to creatively apply them to studio design in terms of conceptualisation and representation (GC)	Contextual Studies: lectures with supporting seminars and includes field trips  Design Studio: 1-1 or group tutorials, Live-projects	Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Presentations, reports, exhibition of artefacts  Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio

#### D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Study independently, set goals, manage workloads and meet deadlines; anticipate and accommodate change, and work within contexts of ambiguity, uncertainty and unfamiliarity. (A&D)	PDP  Opportunity for placement year.	Placement: Activity log and essay
D2	Interact effectively with others, through collaboration, collective endeavour, negotiation, and application of interpersonal and social skills. (A&D)	Group work within design and technology projects	Formative and/or summative: Portfolio, Peer review
D3	Analyse information and experiences, and formulate independent judgements; articulate reasoned arguments through reflection and using the views of others in the development or enhancement of their work. (A&D)	Design Studio: a teaching environment conducive to creative practice which combines 1-1 or group tutorials, workshops, reviews and lectures. Site visits	Formative: Design reviews Summative: Portfolio
D4	Recognise personal strengths and identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required for further professional education, (A&D, GA)	PDP Optional Units: Lectures and workshops Design Studio: tutorials, lectures, reviews  Communication and Professional skills: Seminars.	Summative: Portfolio Formative: Design reviews, Brief Writing Summative: Portfolio Formative: Peer review and/or tutorials Summative: Portfolio

### Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

### Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides access to:

CCI Creative Careers: Support to add degree-related and relevant work experience for CV building including a work placement year, summer or short internships and part-time work.

CCI Creative Skills: One to one support sessions and group tutorials in creative software and skills relevant to CCI courses and future careers.

CCI Academic Skills: Access to resources to support learning strategies and techniques through one to one tutorials or group workshops.

CCI Student Support Advisor: Help to find appropriate academic, pastoral or practical support.

Specialist equipment and facilities relevant to the course.

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Strategy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design \(A&D\); History of Art, Architecture and Design \(HAAD\); General Criteria: Architecture \(GC\); Graduate Attributes: Architecture \(GA\)](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **N/A**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

## Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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