COURSE SPECIFICATION
MA Data Visualisation Design

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

March 2018

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	MA Data Visualisation Design
Final Award	MA
Exit Awards	PgCert, PgDip
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C2646F, C2646P
Mode of study	Full time, Part time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	1 year full time, 2 years part time
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2019 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Creative & Cultural Industries
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Art, Design and Performance
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-art-and-design/
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ma-data-visualisation-design
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	N/A
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 7

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 Module Web Search for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To allow students to enhance their practical and research skills, scholarship and knowledge in relation to the subject of data visualisation, visual communication, information and interaction design. To enable students to develop specialist interest and self-directed research driven study that critically and creatively engages with and challenges the subject.
- To provide opportunities to develop the practice of creating meaningful stories with and about data, an understanding positioned in historical, contemporary and theoretical contextual discourses related to Data Visualisation Design and related disciplines, and to engage with the subject both academically and professionally.
- To provide students with an intellectually challenging study environment where they can question, reflect and respond to cultural, ethical and political debates and issues related to challenges of data visualisation design in the wider society.
- To provide a stimulating study environment that facilitates the development of critically reflective practitioners in a creative, questioning, informed and socially aware manner.
- To provide opportunities for exchange and communication with, and service of, professional communities, exploring live data sets from real world scenarios (for example from within the university, or externally with industry or 3rd sector organisations)
- To develop independent research and project ideas to create innovative, forward thinking design solutions and experiences for a digital and data driven world, which may consider multiple disciplines.

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	Generate Ideas, concepts, proposals, solutions or arguments developed at an advanced level related to the field of study (independently and/or collaboratively in response to set briefs and/or as self-initiated activity). (A&D 6.8)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials for formative feedback and workshops	Summative: Coursework, portfolio and reports
A2	The critical, contextual, historical, conceptual and ethical dimensions of current and emerging data visualisation, information and interaction design practices in particular, and art and design in general. (6.9 A&D)		
A3	Developing ideas through to outcomes at an advanced level, for example images, artefacts, environments, products, services, systems and processes, or texts underpinned by extended self-directed study. (A&D 6.8)		
A4	The designer's relationships with audiences, clients, markets, users, consumers, participants, co-workers and co-creators. (6.9 A&D)		

LO			
A5	The development of the field addressed by the MA programme and its key intellectual tools. (4.2 HAAD)		
A6	The processes through which data visualisation design practice is conceived and developed, and of the contexts in which people appropriate, use and make sense of data through digital multisensory interfaces and artefacts. (4.4 CMFCS)		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Critically evaluate, articulate and synthesise knowledge and understanding, attributes and skills in effective ways in the contexts of creative practice, employment, further study and research. (A&D 4.4)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials for formative feedback and workshops	Summative: Coursework, portfolio and reports
B2	Manage and exploit the interaction between intention, process and outcome, context and the methods of dissemination. (6.4 A&D)		
B3	Apply, consolidate and extend their learning in different contextual frameworks and situations both within and beyond data visualisation design. (A&D 4.4)		
B4	Employ both convergent and divergent thinking in the processes of observation, investigation, speculative enquiry, visualisation and/or making. (A&D 6.8)		
B5	Critically discriminate between alternative theoretical arguments and approaches at an advanced level. (HAAD 4.7)		
B6	Demonstrate research and information retrieval skills, including ability to gather, integrate and organise material critically and evaluate its significance within appropriate intellectual, professional and cultural frameworks. (6.10 A&D)		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Initiate, develop and realise distinctive and creative work within various forms of writing or visual, interactive, multisensory or physical/tangible digital interfaces and artefacts. (5.4 CMFCS)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials for formative feedback and workshops	Summative: Coursework, portfolio and reports
C2	Inform creative practice through research and problem solving. (5.6 CMFCS)		
C3	Experiment, as appropriate, with forms, conventions, languages, techniques and practices. (5.4 CMFCS)		
C4	Produce work that demonstrates manipulation of digital content for effective visual communication and sense-making. (5.4 CMFCS)		

LO number	Learning outcome		
C5	Develop modes of practice and solutions appropriate to contexts of application to professional standards. (5.4 CFMCS)		
C6	Be adaptable, creative, self-reflexive and self-disciplined in producing output for a variety of audiences and clients and in a variety of data visualisation designs and applications. (5.4 CMFCS)		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Employ self-management skills to study independently, set goals, manage workloads, meet deadlines and anticipate and accommodate change. (A&D 6.6)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials for formative feedback and workshops	Summative: Coursework, portfolio and reports
D2	Employ critical awareness, to analyse information and experience, formulate independent judgments and articulate reasoned argument through reflection, review and evaluation and identify personal strengths and needs. (6.6 A&D)		
D3	Communicate effectively and work productively in a team showing abilities at different times to listen, contribute and lead effectively. (5.6 CMFCS)		
D4	Articulate ideas and information coherently in visual, oral and written forms. (6.6 A&D)		
D5	Employ information skills in order to source, navigate, select, retrieve, evaluate and manipulate and manage information from a variety of sources: select and employ communication and information technologies. (6.10 A&D)		
D6	Formulate reasoned responses to the critical judgement of others. (6.10 A&D)		

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 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:
Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification (UoPCFS)
- University of Portsmouth Education Strategy 2016 - 2020
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Art and Design 2017 (A&D), History of Art, Architecture and Design (HAAD), Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (CMFCS)
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

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.

Copyright

Document details

Author	*Dr Simone Gumtau*
Date of production and version number	*15/08/2019 2018 v1.0*
Date of update and version number	
Minimum student registration numbers	*12*