



**UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH**

COLLABORATIVE COURSE SPECIFICATION
CertHE Architecture and Interior Design

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	CertHE Architecture and Interior Design
Final Award	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
Exit Awards	None
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C3865FTC / K122
Mode of study	Full time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	1 year
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	From September 2026 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	City of Portsmouth College
Faculty	Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Architecture, Art and Design
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/faculty-of-creative-and-cultural-industries/school-of-architecture-art-and-design
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/certhe-architecture-and-interior-design
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	N/A
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 4

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 Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in Architecture and Interior Design aims to provide students with a solid foundation in architectural and interior design principles, equipping them with essential knowledge, skills, and experience for further study or entry-level roles in the industry. The course is designed to:

- Introduce core architectural and interior design principles, including spatial composition, materiality, human-centred design, and environmental sustainability.
- Introduce students to fundamental design processes and methodologies through a series of structured studio-based projects that foster inquiry, experimentation, iteration, and reflection.
- Develop competency in architectural and interior design communication techniques, including hand-drawing, digital tools, hybrid representation, and portfolio development, to effectively present and communicate spatial ideas.
- Establish a foundational understanding of environmental, structural, and constructional technology, focusing on material properties, sustainability, and industry practices to inform design decision-making.
- Foster critical thinking by exploring histories and theories of architecture and interior design, considering broader cultural, social, political, and economic influences that shape the built environment.
- Provide hands-on experience with industry-standard tools and techniques, including drawing, model-making, digital visualisation, and CAD software.
- Instil an awareness of ethical, sustainability, and health & safety considerations in the built environment.
- Encourage collaboration and teamwork by engaging students in group projects that simulate real-world design challenges.
- Enhance communication skills by training students to present their ideas effectively through visual, verbal, and written formats.
- Support independent learning and problem-solving abilities, helping students take ownership of their design process and professional development.

Essentially, the Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in Architecture and Interior Design:

- Prepares students for further study or entry into creative industries, providing a stepping stone into Level 5 study or supporting career progression in architecture, interior design, or related fields.
- Creates an inclusive and engaging learning environment where students can explore their creative potential, gain confidence, and build a strong foundation for lifelong learning in design 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	Foundational architectural and interior design principles, including spatial composition, context, materiality, and human-centred design.	Lectures, studio-based learning, design critiques, site visits/trips, independent research	Formative design reviews, peer feedback. Summative design portfolio
A2	Basic design theories, and notions from histories and technologies, including environmental and sustainable principles to inform their creative and technical decision-making process.	Lectures, studio-based case studies analysis, environmental workshops, technical seminars, model making/testing, independent research	Formative design reviews, peer feedback. Summative blog, essays, reports and design portfolio
A3	Ethical and health and life safety issues impacting architecture and interior design and be able to discuss these in relation to personal beliefs and values.	Lectures, studio-based learning, ethical debates, safety workshops	Formative design reviews, peer feedback. Summative blog, manifesto, technical reports and design portfolio
A4	Discipline-specific terminology to articulate ideas and concepts within architecture and interior design.	Lectures, studio-based learning and studio discussions, independent research	Formative presentations and reviews. Summative blog, essays, reports and design portfolio

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Analyse architectural and interior spaces using basic classification principles, considering function, form, and sustainability.	Research-led design tutorials, Studio projects and workshops, site visits/trips, model-making	Formative presentations and reviews. Summative blog, essays, reports and design portfolio
B2	Synthesize and categorise design ideas, research findings, and materials in structured and directed formats.	Research-led design tutorials, structured problem-solving tasks	Formative presentations and reviews. Summative blog, essays, reports and design portfolio
B3	Evaluate their own design decisions, reflecting on technical feasibility and user experience with tutor guidance.	Studio-based learning, studio seminars, design critiques	Self-evaluation, peer discussions and self-assessment

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Work collaboratively in group projects, sharing ideas effectively and fulfilling defined roles within a team.	Studio-based learning, 3D workshop activity	Self-evaluation and reflective practice observations.
C2	Manage information by collecting relevant architectural and interior design sources and using digital and physical resources appropriately.	Library research sessions, guided research tasks, independent online and on-site research	Formative presentations and reviews. Summative blogs, essays, reports and design portfolios
C3	Communicate effectively through visual, verbal, and written means, presenting ideas using drawings, physical models, architectural visualisations and text.	Presentation skills workshops, communication exercises	Formative design reviews, presentations and peer feedback. Summative reports and portfolio assessments

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Apply basic architectural and interior design tools, representation techniques, and software (e.g., CAD, hand drawing, and model-making) to develop conceptual and technical proposals.	Seminars, Representation Tutorials, Software workshops, technical drawing drop-ins.	Formative Self-Assessment, Pin-up reviews Portfolio assessments, technical reports
D2	Demonstrate autonomy in undertaking and completing structured design projects under guidance and supervision.	Studio-based learning, project-based coursework, guided and/or task-based experimentation	Formative design reviews, peer feedback. Summative design portfolio
D3	Evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses within defined criteria and take responsibility for their own learning with appropriate support.	Studio-based learning, seminars and workshops	Formative reviews and personal reflections.

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment 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.

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 Vision](#)
- [Office for Students Conditions of Registration](#)
- [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](#) for [Architecture](#)
- 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
- [QAA The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#)

Changes to your course/modules

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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