



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Sustainable Cities

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

July 2021

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	<i>MA Sustainable Cities</i>
Final Award	<i>MA</i>
Exit Awards	<i>MA</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>P2696FTC, C2696F P2696PTC, C2696P</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time and Part time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>1 year full time, 2 years part time</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>September 2019 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Creative and Cultural Industries</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Architecture</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<i>Portsmouth School of Architecture</i>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<i>MA Sustainable Cities</i>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>None</i>
<u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u>	<i>Level 7</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

- Enhance the scholarship, design and research skills of those working in sustainable cities, architecture and allied professions concerned with the design, construction and management of the built environment, by equipping them with a range of relevant conceptual and analytical skills.
- Provide opportunities, at postgraduate level, for studies of specialist areas of the curriculum that are of current interest to students, staff, and the profession; and which may lead to later opportunities in terms of research and higher degrees.
- Provide self-determined study opportunities for students. These, whilst monitored and challenged by staff, aim to empower students with a confidence in their own theoretical position and creative abilities that will sustain them in their professional future.
- Provide a conversion course for students or professionals seeking competence in the area of sustainable cities.
- Enable participants to improve their employment prospects through the development of useful and relevant skills and knowledge and through the attainment of an internationally recognised qualification.
- Instil in students a broad conceptualisation of sustainability that involves the development of appropriate formal and technical responses to global issues such as climate change.
- Both contribute to our position within the Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries, by developing programmes that will offer other students in the Faculty a better understanding of the discipline of sustainable cities and possibilities for exchanges of ideas; and benefit from our proximity to other disciplines related to the built environment by seeking collaboration with staff and students that will foster the development of skills and research in the work of our students.
- Provide an opportunity to engage in work-based learning through a coherent programme of study.
- Ensure that the programme complements and dovetails, where necessary, with our Master of Architecture programme, which is accredited by ARB/RIBA.

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	The social, political, economic and professional context, in relation to the specialism.	Lectures, seminars, studio	Formative: Tutorials and reviews Summative: Essays and coursework through design projects.
A2	The needs and aspirations of building users: the impact of buildings on the environment, and the precepts of sustainable design: the way in which buildings fit into their local context.	Seminars, studio Workshops	Formative: Tutorials and reviews Summative: Essays and coursework through design projects, interdisciplinary projects.
A3	The need to critically review precedents relevant to the function, organisation and technological strategy of proposals; the need to appraise and prepare building briefs of diverse scales and types, to define client and user requirements and their appropriateness to site and context; the contributions of designers and co-professionals to the formulation of the brief, and the methods of investigation used in its preparation.		Formative: Tutorials and reviews Summative: Essays and coursework through design projects.
A4	The principles and theories of sustainable urban design and the different professions and agencies involved in creating sustainable cities		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Evaluate information, opinion and evidence critically and draw conclusions that display methodological and theoretical rigour and formulate independent judgements, and articulate reasoned arguments through reflection review and evaluation.	Lectures, seminars, studio workshops	Formative: Tutorials and reviews Summative: Essays and coursework through design projects.
B2	Plan, implement and report on a programme of original research.		
B3	Engage in theoretical and practical debate at the forefront of the area of specialism.		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Plan and execute complex studies or a design process analysis	Lectures, seminars, studio workshops	Formative: Tutorials and reviews Summative: Essays and coursework through design projects.
C2	Use visual, verbal and written communication methods and appropriate media (including sketching, modelling, digital and electronic techniques) to represent the testing, analysis and critical appraisal of complex proposals and their resolution to a range of professional and lay audiences		
C3	Produce documentation and reports, which are clear, analytical and logical covering a range of issues of culture, theory and design, executed to a professional standard.		
C4	Devise sound technical strategies for complex sustainable designs.		
C5	Offer potential employers the type and quality of initial skills that might reasonably be expected of a graduate from this specialism undertaking practice experience.		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Work autonomously in a self-directed manner, managing and appraising their own working practices thereby developing as a reflective practitioner and an independent learner.	Lectures, seminars, studio workshops	Formative: Tutorials and reviews Summative: Essays and coursework through design projects.
D2	Work as part of a team.		
D3	Demonstrate mature understanding of the relationship within a multidisciplinary context of this specialism to other specialist areas of expertise.		

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:

- [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: Architecture](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- 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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