

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION (Taught Postgraduate)



1 Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2 Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3 Final Award	MA
4 Programme Title	Landscape Architecture Studies
5 Programme Code	4151F
6 Programme Accreditation	N/A
7 QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	MA
8 FHEQ Level	7
9 Last updated	July 2021

10 Programme Aims

The overall objective is to educate students in the theories, methods and practice of landscape architecture. The programme is therefore concerned with the student's development through:

1. The acquisition of advanced knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts and information relating to landscape architecture and its context.
2. The development of advanced skills in literacy, design and communication.
3. The development of the advanced skills and understanding required to make informed decisions and recommendations relating to future change in the environment.
4. The development of advanced skills and experience in working individually and collectively to achieve specified tasks in the study, design and planning of landscapes, both urban and rural.
5. The development of advanced skills and experience in independent learning and in the in-depth study of specialised areas of landscape architecture.
6. To provide a programme which satisfies the requirements of Level 7 of the FHEQ.
7. To provide a programme which complies with prevailing University policies and QAA codes of practice.
8. To equip graduates for advanced practice in landscape-related disciplines.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Planning.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

A1 Demonstrate advanced understanding and critical thinking about landscape architecture as a form of action concerned with creating and managing space and place.

A2 Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the complexities of landscape issues and problems and be able to integrate knowledge and skills from different areas of the curriculum

A3 Have acquired advanced knowledge and understanding of the way landscape has been conceptualised and theorised at different times and in different places, informed by relevant research findings and relevant practice.

A4 Have gained insight into the philosophies, ideologies and critical positions which underpin different approaches to landscape.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Intended Learning Outcome	Teaching Method
A1	Lectures, guided reading, seminars, studio projects, site visits
A2	Studio projects, site visits
A3	Lectures, guided reading, seminars
A4	Lectures, guided reading, seminars

Assessment Strategy

Intended Learning Outcome	If assessed	Method of Assessment
A1	Yes	Coursework, including assessed essays and studio projects
A2	Yes	Studio projects, both individual and group
A3	Yes	Coursework, including assessed essays and response diaries. MCQ Examinations
A4	Yes	Coursework, including assessed essays and response diaries

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

B1. Define and critically analyse problems effectively and appropriately drawing on current research and knowledge.

B2. Effectively collect, synthesise and utilise evidence and information.

B3. Synthesize effective design solutions to problems given in the form of design briefs.

B4. Articulate reasoned arguments, drawing on a range of information sources.

B5. Develop research skills and experience in the context of the school's research interests.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Intended Learning Outcome	Teaching Methods
B1.	Lectures, seminars, independent reading, studio projects.
B2.	Seminar preparation, essays, studio projects

B3.	Studio projects	
B4.	Essays, seminar preparation, tutorials, independent reading.	
B5.	Essays, seminar preparation, tutorials, independent reading.	

Assessment Strategy

Intended Learning Outcome	If assessed	Method of Assessment
B1.	Yes	Coursework, including assessed essays and studio projects.
B2.	Yes	Assessed essays and studio projects.
B3.	Yes	Studio projects.
B4.	Yes	Coursework, including assessed essays and studio projects.
B5.	Yes	Coursework, including assessed essays and studio projects.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

C1 Respond creatively to complex landscape architectural briefs, generating well-considered design proposals that show understanding of context.

C2. Develop an ability to evaluate materials (both hard and soft), processes and techniques that apply to complex landscape architectural projects and integrate these into feasible design proposals.

C3. Present work effectively in a variety of media.

C4. Present design ideas orally.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Intended Learning Outcome	Teaching Methods
C1.	Design studio tutorials and critical reviews.
C2.	Design studio tutorials and critical reviews, guided reading, lectures, site visits.
C3.	Design studio tutorials and critical reviews.
C4.	Design studio tutorials and critical reviews.

Assessment Strategy

Intended Learning Outcome	If assessed	Method of Assessment
C1.	Yes	Assessed studio projects.
C2.	Yes	Assessed studio projects.
C3.	Yes	Assessed studio projects.
C4.	Yes	Presenting work at critical reviews of studio projects.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

D1. Effectively and fluently communicate information, ideas, principles and arguments

D2. Develop personal self-management skills such as setting priorities and time management

Teaching and Learning Methods

D1 Ability to communicate effectively is learnt through producing essays and reports and (primarily) by presenting design work at critical reviews.

D2 Is learned particularly through time management guidance as part of the studio tuition process, and the requirement to meet deadlines for submitting essays and presenting studio work.

Assessment Strategy

D1 is assessed through the submission of a range of different written essays and reports and through presenting design work at critical reviews.

D2 is assessed through the production of essays and studio project work, including a major thesis design over the summer period.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features**Basic structure of the programme**

The taught programme consists of core and compulsory modules in Landscape and Landscape Design. Students can also choose a number of Planning modules from those offered in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. In the third semester students undertake the design thesis, which consists of both design work and a 2000 – 4000 word design statement explaining the theoretical basis and site analysis for the proposed design.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The programme is designed to educate students in the knowledge and values of landscape architecture and provide an advanced understanding of its interface with planning and architecture. It aims to develop an understanding of the theories, methods and techniques that are applied to the practice of landscape architecture and the activities and environments that are the subject-matter of the discipline. Although taught in a British context, many of the theories, approaches and methods taught are applicable worldwide. The programme also opens up some career paths outside of landscape architecture which students might become engaged in, such as landscape conservation, garden design history etc.

N.B. The MA in Landscape Architecture Studies (MALAS) is not designed to provide a complete training for landscape architects and is not therefore recognised professionally by the Landscape Institute, but it provides a basis for further education, career development and work in a variety of areas as well as opportunity for specialised study.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[4151 Programme Regulations 21-22](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

Accreditation reports

N/A

Additional mechanisms

N/A

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.