PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION **(Taught Postgraduate)**		Newcastle University

1	**Awarding Institution**	Newcastle University
2	**Teaching Institution**	Newcastle University
3	**Final Award**	MA Postgraduate Diploma
4	**Programme Title**	Urban Design (MA/Postgraduate Diploma)
5	**Programme Code**	4004F/P
6	**Programme Accreditation**	RTPI – Specialist
7	**QAA Subject Benchmark(s)**	n/a
8	**FHEQ Level**	7
9	**Last updated**	July 2021

10	**Programme Aims**

1. To equip students with a broad understanding of the field of urban design. To enable them to grasp the theoretical foundations of the discipline; the linkages between theory and practice; and to develop advanced design skills.

2. To develop both professional and transferable skills

3. To develop research skills

4. To develop an understanding of the values and ethics of working as a professional in the field of urban design

5. To enable students to develop depth of knowledge and/or skills in particular areas of urban design, underpinned by current and relevant research

6. To meet the criteria for Level 7 qualifications as set out in the FHEQ

7. To comply with University policy and QAA Codes of Practice

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 MA Urban Design.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

A1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of urban design as a field of study which balances the disciplines of environmental design and the social sciences in the creation of the built environment.

A2 Demonstrate understanding of key ideas in and approaches to urban design as a form of action concerned with design and management of the built environment.

A3 Demonstrate an understanding of the physical, social cultural, environmental, economic and regulatory contexts of urban design.

A4 Demonstrate an understanding of the development processes involved in urban design; patterns of development; the development industry; and planning processes.

A5 Demonstrate an understanding of diversity issues in urban design stakeholder involvement, communication and the design process.

A6 Demonstrate an understanding of concepts and theories of sustainability in the creation of the built environment.

A7 Demonstrate an understanding of the history of urban form.

A8 Demonstrate an understanding of the outputs and products of urban design; project design; design policies; design codes; frameworks; design guidance; and master-plans.

A9 Demonstrate a critical understanding of values, ethics and professionalism in urban design.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Outcome	Teaching method	Enabling and encouragement
A1/A11	Lectures; tutorials	Independent reading; provision of exemplar material
A2/12	Lectures; seminars	Independent reading; provision of exemplar material
A3/13	Lectures; seminars	Independent reading
A4/14	Design projects	Tutorials
A5/15	Lectures; seminars	Independent reading
A6/16	Lectures; seminars; design projects	Independent reading; provision of exemplar material
A7/17	Lectures	Independent reading
A8/18	Design projects	Provision of exemplar material; tutorials
A9/19	Lectures	Independent reading
A10	Design thesis, or dissertation	Independent reading; tutorials; and design review (for thesis only)

Assessment Strategy

Outcome	Assessed	Method
A1/11	Yes	Project design work reviews and accompanying supporting work; essays; seminar presentations; design thesis or dissertation
A2/12	Yes	Essays; seminar presentations
A3/13	Yes	Essays; seminar presentations
A4/14	Yes	Project design work reviews
A5/15	Yes	Essays; seminar presentations
A6/16	Yes	Essays; project design
A7/17	Yes	Projects
A8/18	Yes	Projects
A9/19	Yes	Projects
A10	Yes	Design thesis, or dissertation

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

B1 Define and analyse problems effectively and appropriately in the field of urban design

B2 Make effective use of evidence and information

B3 Articulate reasoned arguments

B4 Develop research skills and experience in the context of urban design

Assessment Strategy

Outcome	Method of assessment
B1/5	Essays; seminar presentations; design review
B2/6	Essays; seminar presentations; design review; design thesis, or dissertation
B3/7	Essays; seminar presentations; design review; design thesis, or dissertation
B4	Design thesis, or dissertation

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

C1 Formulate and propose cogent policies, strategies and course of action as responses to urban design problems.

C2 Evaluate and effectively utilise a variety of urban design outputs and products.

C3 Develop advanced graphic communication skills.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Outcome	Teaching method	Enabling and encouragement
C1	Lectures; seminars; design project group and individual tutorials	Independent reading; independent site visits; provision of relevant exemplar material
C2	Lectures, design project group and individual tutorials	Independent reading; engagement with professional practitioners through design review process; provision of exemplar materials
C3	Lectures, design project group and individual tutorials	Engagement with professional practitioners through design review process; provision of exemplar material.

Assessment Strategy

Outcome	Method of assessment
C1	Design review
C2	Design review
C3	Design review

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

D1 Effectively and fluently communicate information, ideas, principles and arguments; through graphic (both manual and IT) written and oral means.

D2 Work effectively individually and in groups

D3 Develop personal self-management skills such as setting priorities time management, independent learning and reflexive thought

Teaching and Learning Methods

Outcome	Teaching method	Enabling and encouragement
D1	Lectures; design projects	Provision of exemplar material; individual tutorials.
D2	Group and individual design projects	Individual and group tutorials
D3	Tutorials, explicit pieces of writing	Extra individual tutorials as necessary

Assessment Strategy

Outcome	Method of assessment
D1	Design review
D2	Design review
D3	Reflexive written assessments

12	Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

The MA Urban Design is a 180 credit, 12 month programme. The Postgraduate Diploma has the same taught components exclusive of the dissertation. Both can be undertaken on a part-time basis over a minimum of 24 or 21 months for MA and Postgraduate Diploma respectively.

The programme aims to both build core knowledge and skills in urban design. The MA includes a 60 credit design thesis split on a 10-50 ratio between semesters 2 and 3. This allows the student to focus and develop key design skills rooted in urban design theory and applied to a site of their choice through a self-led design project.

The majority of the programme consists of a series of compulsory modules:
A 10 x credit lecture series and a 10 x credit seminar series both on classic and contemporary issues of theory and practice in the discipline
2 x 40 credit design projects incorporating learning of key skills and process as well as how to translate theory into practice in some real-life scenario projects with a strong focus on communities.
A further 20 credit design project based in another European city public space and its contextual meaning as well as processes of community participation and action in regeneration.
For MAUD candidates, a 60 x credit design thesis split into a literature and site finding part for 10 x credits in semester 2 and a design development part x 50 credits with interim and final reviews in semester 3.
Candidates wishing to obtain RTPI accreditation will be required to take, and pass, The Reflexive Practitioner in place of Principles and Practice of Urban Design (another module may be substituted instead of with the approval of the DPD)

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

See above.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[4004 Programme Regulations 23-24](#)

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13   Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

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

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

Accreditation reports
N/A

Additional mechanisms
N/A

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15   Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

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.