Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Architecture and Built Environment		
Course Code(s):	AT002S31UV	Part-time	2 Years
UCAS Code:			
Course Title:	HNC Architectural Studies		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Higher National Certificate Architectural Studies awarded by the University of Wolverhampton University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	26/May/2017		
Last Review:	2015/6		
Course Specification valid from:	2009/0		
Course Specification valid to:	2021/2		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr David Heesom
Head of Department:	Mr Colin Orr

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

Entry requirements for this course are:

- A minimum of grade C from one A-Level or equivalent
- GCSE English and Maths at Grade C or above or Key Skills Communication and Application of Number at Level 2
- A mature person who has worked in a relevant industry but without gaining any formal qualifications (or recent qualifications, or qualifications at A level standard or equivalent) may also apply for entry to the course. They will be interviewed and, if appropriate, asked to complete a piece of work, to assess their suitability to be admitted and undertake the necessary work. We welcome enquiries and/or applications from such candidates

You will be required to attend an interview, where a sample of your work will be reviewed and you will have the opportunity to visit our excellent facilities.

An Access to HE Diploma full award will be accepted.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The course has both a theoretical and practical content that brings together a range of skills and subjects including design, new technology, sustainability and construction methods. This will apply to skilled technicians and those interested in furthering their career opportunities. The course is taught by staff with industry experience using a combination of methods that match professional practice including studio and drawing office sessions and using the latest Computer Aided Design (CAD) to communicate design schemes. The course is developed with input from industry professionals to ensure that it is up to date and meets the needs of the industry.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The aim of this course is to develop students with a technical understanding of the architectural design process including the application of management and technology.

The course will provide students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to take on roles as architectural technicians, providing technical support to Architects and Architectural Technologists. By reflecting current industry practice, studying this course will also allow you to examine issues relating to construction regulations and the environment.

Students will acquire and implement abilities in the collation, organisation and investigation of technical information and its impact on the overall design process. These skills will enable students to provide, coordinate and communicate innovative solutions through the preparation of drawings and specifications.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00
2021/2	H	Part Time	£3100.00
2022/3	H	Part Time	£3120.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Part-time)

HNC part-time students study a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 80 credits per year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 80 credits from the linked (*) groups.				
*** Group 02 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 60**				
4AT021	Integrated Design Studio	40	SEM2	
4AT019	Digital Design	20	SEM2	
*** Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 60**				
4AT009	Professional and Environmental Studies	20	SEM1	
4AT004	Design Studio (Art, Drawing, Process and Models)	20	SEM1	
4AT018	Materials, Construction and Structure	20	SEM1	

September (Part-time)

Students should select those modules not already undertaken in year 1. HNC part-time students study a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 80 credits per year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 80 credits from the linked (*) groups.				
*** Group 02 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 60**				
4AT021	Integrated Design Studio	40	SEM2	
4AT019	Digital Design	20	SEM2	
*** Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 60**				
4AT009	Professional and Environmental Studies	20	SEM1	
4AT004	Design Studio (Art, Drawing, Process and Models)	20	SEM1	
4AT018	Materials, Construction and Structure	20	SEM1	

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

Reference Points:

QAA subject benchmark - Architectural Technology (including CIAT threshold requirements) (2014)

Edexcel Higher Nationals in Construction Qualification Framework (2003)

QAA/QCA/School Key Skills Descriptors.

University of Wolverhampton Equality and Diversity Policy (2007).

School Intellectual Skills Descriptors

School undergraduate Assessment Tariff

School briefing paper 'Equality and Diversity in the Curriculum' (2008)

School ethics guidelines (2007).

Equailty Act 2010

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
HNC01 Become fully conversant with the four main aspects of the discipline, namely Design Procedures, Technology, Procurement and Contracts and Professional Practice.	
HNC02 Realise design schemes and solutions, and select appropriate methods and materials for given proposals with due regard to prevailing regulations, standards, social and economic factors, human needs and environmental issues.	
HNC03 Develop design schemes using appropriate methods and communicate design and technology information through a range of visual and verbal techniques including the use of ICT.	
HNC04 Demonstrate a range of key skills required in practice namely communication, numeracy, IT, working with others, improving own learning and performance, and problem solving.	
HNC05 Possess the ability to recognise novel problems, evaluate, interpret and synthesise technological data and apply this knowledge in the development of creative, innovative and inclusive solutions.	

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Ultimately the learning that you undertake throughout this course will lead you on the path to become a

professional designer. The ability to create successful designs underpins all learning activities within the course. Throughout the modules you will develop a range of theoretical and practical skills that you will put into practice through completing various projects. Evaluation of previous designs is also one of the core competencies you will learn to develop and apply. Realisation of sound designs, based on past experiences and through a range of techniques, is vital to achieving success as a professional.

Solving real world problems will underpin all of your learning on this course. Having the ability to specifically identify the clients' needs and provide a design will ensure your solutions are fit for purpose. Inclusivity will also feature heavily in all of your learning to realise solutions that are fit for all aspects of society. The combination of the above will provide you with the skills required as your start your careers as a professional designer.

There is a range of specific learning activities that you will engage with during the course of your study.

You will take part in lectures and seminars. Some of these will be more traditional whereas others will require you to undertake research before coming together to discuss design issues with a range of students and academic staff and put these into the wider global context including such topical problems as sustainability and inclusivity. You will have seminars from industry practitioners and have the opportunity to discuss your projects with them to gain real world insight into the problems you are trying to solve.

You will work in a dedicated design studio to create physical models of your designs. Throughout the classes you will obtain skills required to create models using traditional manual techniques and you will also learn how to create models using the latest techniques such as rapid prototyping and 3D printing.

Based on problems that are provided, you will create your design drawings in the dedicated 'drawing office' using traditional drawing methods. You will develop your *digital literacy* through a range of skills and make use of web based information to inform design, for example deriving design standards from online BS documents, researching design concepts from the World Wide Web. Design schemes are produced using a range of tools and techniques from word processing, spreadsheet calculations to 3D computer modelling and using 2D graphics packages to create scheme presentation boards.

Teaching of design draws on international cultures and this is used to underpin module content. The ethics of design is a key element to all courses and this concept features heavily in modules, with students studying topics such as secure design and inclusivity. Your position as a *global citizen* will be developed through your learning as the department has a range of international collaborations that enables various cultures to be embedded into the teaching of design. Previously, students have underpinned their global design knowledge with field trips abroad to analyse international architecture.

Working in multidisciplinary teams, you will mirror real world practice to develop sustainable and inclusive design schemes. Often working on design briefs specified by industry practitioners, you will work as if in the real world and develop skills required of them in the work environment. As *enterprising* designers you will develop solutions that seek out the most appropriate and cost effective solution for the client. Additionally, you will take part external design competitions where you can compete with other students from around the country.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

Within each of the modules you will develop academic study skills through completion of weekly tasks that will help you to develop your design abilities, understand how to research particular topics through the web and more traditional means and how to write in an academic and industry relevant style.

The University complements this by supporting your learning through the provision of generic study skills including communication and how to write academic assignments.

In addition, there will be opportunities to develop your information seeking and information management skills. These may be in the form of seminars or workshops delivered by LIS staff and embedded into the curriculum or by following the programme of "Infobite" workshops available in the Learning Centres.

From the very start of your course you will work with staff within the department and with your personal tutorial to develop a Personal Development Plan (PDP) and this will provide you with a record and action plan of where you need to develop your skills in particular areas.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Completion of the HNC Architectural Studies course will provide students with the opportunity to work as technicians within the architectural practice. These roles are sought after by professional practice, developers and local authorities.

Successful completion of the course will allow students to progress onto a range of architectural design based courses including Architectural Design Technology, Interior Architecture and Property Development or CAD and Construction. The HNC also potentially provides the first stage towards attaining CIAT professional membership as an Architectural Technician.