

**Course Code:**

PARE202

**Session:**

2017/2018

**1. Course Title:**

Dissertation Proposal/Design Thesis Proposal

**2. Version**

1.1

**Date of Production/Revision:**

Session 2017/2018

**Approval Date:**

20 April 2016

**3. Level:**

SCQF 11

**4. Credits:**

15

**5. Lead School/Board of Studies:**

Mackintosh School of Architecture

**6. Course Contact:**

Prof Tim Sharpe

**7. Course Aims:**

- To develop independent research interests and learning in environmental architecture through self-selected and self-directed study.
- To identify a research question and propose an appropriate research methodology; or identify a design challenge or opportunity and design an appropriate analysis methodology.
- To develop a critical understanding of research design.
- To establish a strong, coherent research or design thesis proposal, to be carried forward through the dissertation or design thesis at Stage 3.
- To develop skills in academic writing practices and communication.

**8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:****By the end of this course students will be able:**

1. To demonstrate independence and self-direction.
2. To reason critically and analytically in the context of the latest knowledge base of environmental architecture.
3. To identify key research gaps, challenges, and opportunities; and formulate good research

questions.

4. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of research methods or design analysis methods; and an ability to select appropriate research methods or design analysis methods for the articulation of research or design aims.
5. To communicate research or design thesis proposal clearly and effectively in appropriate formats.

#### 9. Indicative Content:

The course will be delivered throughout Stage 2 of the Masters programme. Students will be asked to submit an abstract/project synopsis in week 4 of Stage 2, which will be used to assign appropriate supervisors. There will be no lectures; instead students will develop their individual research/project proposals under the guidance of their supervisors.

Before final submission of the dissertation or design thesis proposal, students will present their ideas to tutors and peers.

#### 10. Description of Summative Assessment:

No.	Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments) or length (exam)
1	Presentation	A 10-15 minute presentation of the individual research or design thesis proposal to staff and other students in the cohort.	10%	Semester 2 Week 8
2	Submission of written report	A 3,000 words (+or -10%) written project proposal, including research or design thesis project introduction, context, methods, expected outcome and a tentative programme of execution	90%	Semester 2 Week 13

##### 10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

A 10-15 minute presentation reporting on the individual research or design thesis proposal to staff and peers, assessed on the basis of learning outcome 5.

Students will be required to submit a written research or design thesis proposal (3,000 words, + or - 10%) outlining the aims and objectives, study context, methods, expected outcome and attentive programme of execution, which will form the basis of the dissertation at Stage 3. The proposal will be assessed against learning level outcomes 1-5. Assessment will include blind marking by two of the supervisors in the programme, with feedback provided by both.

#### 11. Formative Assessment:

Feedback through one-to-one and group tutorials.

##### 11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

Feedback from supervisors will be provided periodically through one-to-one tutorials

**12. Collaborative:**Yes No **12.1 Teaching Institutions:**

n/a

**13. Requirements of Entry:**

The requisites for the programme and successful completion of Stage 1 - mandatory

**14. Co-requisites:**

1. Energy, Comfort and Health
2. Technical Research Paper
3. PGT Elective

**15. Associated Programmes:**

MSc in Environmental Architecture

**16. When Taught:**

Stage 2

**17. Timetable:**

Face to face tutorials: 2 hours in total (4 x 30 minute tutorials), tutorial dates to be arranged with supervisor

Student presentations of proposals: 6 hours (week 11)

Feedback on draft proposal: 1 hour (week 13)

**18. Available to Visiting Students:**Yes No **19. Distance Learning:**Yes No

**20. Placement:**Yes No **21. Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Method	Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours (Including formal contact hours)
Lecture		
Studio		
Seminar/Presentation	6	8
Tutorial	2 (4 x 30 min tutorials)	2
Workshop		
Laboratory work		
Project work		
Professional Practice		
E-Learning / Distance Learning		
Placement		
Examination		
Essay / Writing	1 (for feedback on complete draft)	80
Private Study	Not Applicable	60
Other (please specify below)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 hours</b>	<b>150 hours</b>

**22. Description of "Other" Teaching and Learning Methods:**

N/A

**23. Additional Relevant Information:**

N/A

**24. Indicative Bibliography:**

Groat, L. and Wang, D. (2013). *Architectural research methods*. 2nd ed. Oxford: John Wiley & Sons.  
 Willis, P. (1983). *Dissertation Handbook: A Guide to Research and Writing*. London: RIBA.  
 Fellows, R. and Liu, A. (2008). *Research methods for construction*. Oxford: John Wiley & Sons.  
 Knight, A. and Ruddock, L. (2008). *Advanced Research Methods in the Built Environment*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.  
 Creswell, J. (2013). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Sage Publications.

Additional bibliography to be compiled by individual student based on the specific study area, with guidance from supervisor.