

Course Code:

PCRS109

Session:

2017/18

1. Course Title:

Core Research Skills - A research primer for architects

2. Date of Production/Revision:

2015/16

3. Level:

SCQF 11

4. Credits:

15

5. Lead School/Board of Studies:

Mackintosh School of Architecture

6. Course Contact:

Raid Hanna

7. Course Aims:

The RIBA charter in 1837 implies that the advancement of architecture is linked to the acquirement of 'knowledge'. Research is an original investigation geared toward the creation of 'knowledge'. This suggests that architecture is inextricably linked to research.

The course aims to identify the context, gamut and modes of research that are appropriate to architecture and at the same time embrace generic concepts such as rigour, originality and significance. As a vehicle for teaching, the course intends to equip students with necessary knowledge and the skills required to enable them to initiate or investigate a problem, formulate a hypothesis and identify an appropriate methodology to conduct a systematic research activity, either quantitatively or qualitatively, on an aspect of architecture: social/ psychological, technological, environmental, design, etc. Participants will be exposed to a range of research methodologies and techniques of 'measurement' which will systematically compare actual building performance measures with explicit performance criteria. For design research and the course aims to highlight 'protocol analysis' and verbal segmentation as a methodology that can effectively deal with design cognition and approximately measure the designer's behaviour.

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

- By the end of the course students should be able to:
- Use a range of research resources and methods effectively;
 - Understand the principles underpinning research at postgraduate level;
 - Demonstrate understanding of the relationships between research and practice;
 - Organise and conduct research projects effectively and efficiently.

9. Indicative Content:

- Introducing research skills for postgraduate students
- Conceptualising a research question
- Understanding research resources
- Finding and managing information
- Mapping the context
- Developing and managing a project of research
- Practice as research
- Disseminating research outcomes

10. Description of Summative Assessment:

No.	Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments) or length (exam)
1	Portfolio	Portfolio to contain research assignments mainly in diagrammatic form on various aspects of architectural research from design research and post occupancy evaluation to building science and creativity measurements.	100%	End of stage 1

10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

Students on this course will be assessed on their ability to:

- conceptualise and present a research problem;
- utilize appropriate methods and tools when conducting a research project;
- situate their projects of research within a research context;
- demonstrate a level of depth in the analysis of works, practitioners, ideas and/or debates appropriate to postgraduate level

11. Formative Assessment:

Verbal feedback throughout the duration of the course.

11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

Formative assessment will take place through research assignments set during the duration of the course and will allow a monitoring of progression towards the meeting the course LO's for summative assessment. This will cover the critical awareness and understanding of the topics delivered.

12. Collaborative:

Yes

No

12.1 Teaching Institutions:

3T

13. Requirements of Entry:

None

14. Co-requisites:

None

15. Associated Programmes:

All Postgraduate Taught Programmes (excluding MSc Medical Visualisation and Human Anatomy)

16. When Taught:

Stage 1

17. Timetable:

TBC

18. Available to Visiting Students:

Yes

No

Date of Production/Revision

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	6
Tutorial	1	1
Workshop	8	8
Laboratory work		
Project work		100
Professional Practice		
E-Learning / Distance Learning		
Placement		
Examination		
Essay		
Private Study	Not Applicable	35
Other (please specify below)		
TOTAL	17	150

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

N/A

23. Additional Relevant Information:

This course introduces students taking taught postgraduate programmes at the Glasgow School of Art to a range of core research skills, from formulating research questions to methods of utilizing visual and written sources. The ways in which postgraduate study differs from undergraduate – and the significance of research to this distinction – will be explored. Central to the course is the importance of research for practitioners, and the notion of practice as a form of research.

24. Indicative Bibliography:

Bowden, I. and Rüedi Ray, K. (2014), *The Dissertation: A Guide for Architecture Students*, Routledge, London.
Creswell, J. W. (2012) *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches*, Sage

Date of Production/Revision

Publications, London.

Cross, N. (2007), *Designerly Ways of Knowing* (Board of International Research in Design), Springer, Berlin.

Grout, L. and Wang, D. (2013), *Architectural Research Methods*, 2nd edition, John Wiley and Sons, New Jersey.

Leach, N. (editor) (2014), *Space Architecture: The New Frontier for Design Research*, *Architectural Design (AD)*, Vol. 84, Issue 6.

Leedy, P. and Ormrod, J E (2015), *Practical Research: Planning and Design*, 11th Edition, Pearson Education Ltd., London.

Popper, K. (2002), *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge*, Routledge, London.

Schon, D. (1990), *Educating the Reflective Practitioner: Toward a New Design for Teaching and Learning in the Professions*, Jossey-Bass Higher Education Publisher, CA.

Temple, N. and Bandyopadhyay, S. (2007), *Thinking Practice: Reflections on Architectural Research and Building Work*, Black Dog Publishing, London.

Date of Production/Revision	
-----------------------------	--