INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE (IQAC)

«Approved»

2025 y. «____» _____

Programme	**Level 7 Diploma in Architecture**		
Unit Number/ Unit Title	**Unit 5 Architectural Research Methods and Critical Thinking**		
Cohort Code:	L07CTGD-U5		
Unit Level	7		
Total Credits/Hours	Total qualification time 200/ Total Guided learning hours 90/ Self-guided learning hours 110		
Credits	20 CATS/ 10 ECTS		
Lecturer			
Start Date		**End Date**	

Unit Aims	This unit provides learners with the tools and methodologies necessary for conducting advanced research in architecture. It focuses on the formulation of research questions, critical engagement with theory and precedent, and the development of appropriate methodologies for design-based or theoretical investigations.
Differentiation Strategies *(e.g. planned activities or support for individual learners according to their needs)*	Various approaches to addressing the various identified students' needs will be adopted throughout the lesson. Such will include: 1. Progressive tasks 2. Digital resources 3. Verbal support 4. Variable outcomes 5. Collaborative learning 6. Ongoing assessment 7. Flexible-pace learning

Equality & Diversity	Variety of teaching techniques will be employed to ensure that the needs of each individual learner are met.
Safeguarding & Prevent	Safeguarding policies and the Prevent duty are strictly observed to ensure the safety, well-being, and inclusivity of all students and staff.
Health & Safety	SIRM H&S policies will be maintained.
Learning Resources	**Teaching and Learning Materials** • Groat, L. & Wang, D. (2013). Architectural Research Methods. Wiley. • Cuff, D. (1991). Architecture: The Story of Practice. MIT Press. • Fraser, M. (2013). Design Research in Architecture: An Overview. Ashgate. • Creswell, J. W. (2014). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. Sage. • Van Schaik, L. (2005). Spatial Intelligence: New Futures for Architecture. Wiley-Academy.

Learning Outcome (The learner will:)	Assessment Criteria (The learner can:)
LO1. Develop coherent architectural research questions.	**Research Proposal:** **1.1 Formulate research aims and objectives grounded in theoretical frameworks.** **1.2 Justify the significance and originality of the inquiry.**
LO2. Critically engage with architectural literature and precedent.	**Annotated Bibliography:** **2.1 Identify and summarise key scholarly works and sources.** **2.2 Evaluate relevance and gaps in existing literature.**
LO3. Select appropriate research methodologies for architectural inquiry.	**Methodology Report:** **3.1 Compare qualitative, quantitative, and design- based approaches.** **3.2 Justify the selected methodology and data collection tools.**
LO4. Reflect on research ethics and positionality in architectural studies.	**Reflective Essay:** **4.1 Discuss ethical considerations and consent in architectural research.** **4.2 Analyse researcher bias and subjectivity.**

No	Topic	Learning Outcomes for Each Topic	Which assessment criteria does the session relate to?	Day/month/ year/ signature
1	Introduction to Research in Architecture	Understand the role of research in architectural design and academia.	LO1	
2	Framing Research Questions	Practice formulating clear and focused architectural research questions.	LO1	
3	Research Aims and Objectives	Develop structured aims and objectives aligned with a research question.	LO1	
4	Introduction to Critical Thinking in Architecture	Identify assumptions, logic, and evidence in architectural arguments.	LO2	
5	Reviewing Architectural Literature	Learn how to locate, read, and summarise academic and professional sources.	LO2	
6	Analysing Precedents Critically	Explore built examples and extract lessons relevant to your research.	LO2	

7	Understanding Architectural Theory	Engage with key theoretical frameworks relevant to architecture.	LO2	
8	Research Methodologies in Architecture	Survey qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods used in design research.	LO3	
9	Case Study as a Research Strategy	Learn how to structure and analyse architectural case studies.	LO3	
10	Ethnographic and Observational Methods	Understand the use of interviews, field notes, and observation in user-focused research.	LO3	
11	Design-Based Research and Practice-Led Inquiry	Explore methods where design itself is part of the research process.	LO3	
12	Comparative and Typological Analysis	Practise identifying and comparing building types and spatial patterns.	LO3	
13	Mapping and Diagramming as Research Tools	Use spatial representation for research and analysis.	LO3	
14	Data Collection Techniques	Learn how to gather empirical data using surveys, interviews, or spatial metrics.	LO3	

15	Visual and Spatial Analysis	Use drawing, modelling, and diagrams as methods of inquiry.	LO3	
16	Midterm	**Midterm assessment** covering all learning outcomes (theory and practical elements)	LO1, LO2, LO3	
17	Understanding Research Ethics	Explore ethical principles in participant engagement and data usage.	LO4	
18	Positionality and Reflexivity in Research	Reflect on the researcher's role and bias in architectural studies.	LO4	
19	Plagiarism, Citation, and Referencing	Learn proper academic conventions for citing and referencing sources.	LO4	
20	Structuring a Research Proposal	Develop the outline of a full architectural research proposal.	LO1, LO3	
21	Building an Annotated Bibliography	Practise compiling summaries and evaluations of key sources.	LO2	
22	Quantitative Data in Architecture	Use statistics, metrics, and numerical data in spatial analysis.	LO3	

23	Participatory and Co-Design Methods	Explore inclusive research approaches involving stakeholders and communities.	LO3	
24	Site and Contextual Analysis	Use research to examine physical, cultural, and regulatory conditions.	LO3	
25	Writing Critically about Architecture	Strengthen your ability to write clear, analytical research narratives.	LO2, LO4	
26	Argumentation and Evidence in Research	Learn to build logical, persuasive arguments supported by data.	LO2, LO4	
27	Drafting Research Chapters and Outlines	Begin composing sections of your research document or article.	LO1 – LO4	
28	Peer Review and Feedback	Share work with others and engage in structured critical feedback.	LO2, LO4	
29	Preparing Visuals for Research Presentations	Develop compelling drawings, charts, and graphics for communicating findings.	LO3	
30	Presenting Research to an Academic Audience	Practise oral presentation and defence of your research.	LO4	

31	Final Exam: Reflection and Next Steps	Reflect on research learning outcomes and explore future applications.	LO4	