

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	BA (Hons) Interior Design
Intermediate Awards Available	BA, Cert HE Interior Design, Dip HE Interior Design
Teaching Institution(s)	UEL
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	
UEL Academic School	Architecture, Computing & Engineering (ACE)
UCAS Code	W250
Professional Body Accreditation	
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Architecture (2010) & Art & Design (2008)
Additional Versions of this Course	
Date Specification Last Updated	11 November 2015

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Provide an educational and creative framework that enables you to become a designer.
- Explore existing and new building contexts where you will design for potential users in an array of timescales
- Learn many types of analogue and digital representation techniques as well as a theoretical and historical context that will prepare you for employment.
- Experience professional practice through learning from office mentors and completing 'live projects' to further increase your access to the design industry.

What also defines this course is an emphasis on completing 'live', group and competition projects that enable you to develop your abilities in collaborative working, negotiation and interpersonal skills. Through practice visits, the involvement of industry design mentors and the participation of notable practicing designers as design tutors and visiting critics throughout the course, this further increases your access to and connection with the design industry.

What you will learn:

Interior Design at UEL

Our interior design teaching balances a respect and understanding of the past and the present with an inspirational, poetic and innovative stance towards the future. By doing this you can explore the huge range and diversity of interiors practice that's possible from the very 'historical' to the intentionally 'scenographic' and work in fields ranging from pop-up event & furniture design to complex regeneration and heritage projects. Key Learning outcomes include the following areas; Knowledge, thinking skills, subject-based practical skills and skills for life and work (general skills).

Knowledge

- Spatial understanding
- Understanding of the built environment
- Acute sense of historical styles and current trends

Thinking Skills

- Self-reflective analysis
- How to Analyze space and project ideas
- How to critically engage in design discourse

Subject-Based Skills

- Technical Drawing, Sketching and Model-making
- Use of industry-standard software and computational skills
- Use of tools and representational methods

Skills for Life and work (general skills)

- How to communicate verbally and in writing in a professional manner
- How to present design work to an industry-standard
- How to manage time and deadlines with other aspects of life

By building an awareness of the timescales and life spans of interior projects you will encounter the full range of roles and relationships that are required when working with clients and other professionals involved in realizing projects; from 'art director' through to detailed designer.

The school is located in East London near to contemporary internationally important shopping, transport and trade districts such as Excel, London City Airport, Stratford International & the City. You will be visiting these and using them as sites for commercial and retail orientated projects. Similarly you will also be engaged in local historical sites which require delicate and careful restoration as well as innovative thinking about what could happen next to accommodate and delight their new contemporary occupants.

You will have the opportunity to share in the ethos of an established Architecture School that is renowned for its emphasis on 'hands-on' making and the study of materiality, its diverse student & staff population and its excellent track record of graduate employment. Our close proximity to the architecture, art and product departments, allows you to test out creative partnerships that mirror those formed in real-life practice.

What further defines your experience will be an emphasis on completing 'live', group and competition projects when you can develop your abilities in collaborative working, negotiation and interpersonal skills. Through practice visits, the involvement of industry design mentors and the participation of notable practicing designers as design tutors and visiting critics this will expand your access to and connection with the contemporary design industry.

ACE currently has links with Design and Architecture Schools abroad, so you will have the possibility of engaging with these in a number of cities including Venice, St Petersburg, Paris and Athens.

Learning and Teaching

Knowledge is developed through

- Lectures and seminars
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback
- Research activities with feedback
- Technical drawing workshops and feedback

Thinking skills are developed through

- Reflective activities with feedback
- Design Studio work with feedback

Practical skills are developed through

- IT and Computing skills-activities with feedback
- Workshop activities with feedback and tuition

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- The demands of the study medium
- Professional visits to offices, museum visits, city walks, field trips
- Project work leading to a resolved portfolio
- Interaction with Industry professionals, mentoring sessions and Live Projects with feedback.

Within ACE our academic courses strive to develop practice that enhances life in the context of nature and society. Staff and students, from all over the world work on design projects situated locally and internationally. Our core team is supplemented by a number of internationally renowned practitioners who feed their expertise into the School through regular lectures and debates, design reviews and studio teaching.

The heart of the academic course is the design studio where you will learn the strategies of spatial design through active participation in design projects. The Interior Design subject area is based within ACE, located in the A.V.A building, on the UEL Docklands Campus. In carrying out all academic work you are introduced to, and are expected to, take the opportunity to use all the available facilities and the IT platforms that are used for sharing communication. These include the

extensive wood, metal and digital fabrication workshops, IT labs, photographic darkrooms, printing and computer suites.

Lectures and seminars take place in the AVA building and adjoining buildings. There is a dedicated study library adjoining the AVA building with extensive opening hours. As part of their studies, you will regularly visit study sites and buildings off campus, and in cities in the UK and abroad.

You are expected to complement formal teaching and assignments with self-directed research and testing out your skills using a variety of design approaches. Developing skills in time management, being able to make creative decisions, being able to prioritise certain strands of work and becoming more critical and reflective about personal project work are essential attributes of becoming a design professional. At the end of each academic year, students exhibit their work in groups as part of the end of year showcase when they publish an annual catalogue showcasing the best work.

Assessment

All the course modules are assessed at the end of the academic year. Although each module is assessed separately against specific learning outcomes and criteria, the assessed work fits together in the form of an overarching academic 'portfolio'. You are encouraged to see your work as a whole. This includes work in a wide variety of media and modes and is what you will take with you when you apply for work or further study.

Design studio work is assessed within a design portfolio and supporting studies are normally assessed in the form of a bound report or within the portfolio, although there are opportunities to assess more on-line and multi-media submissions as appropriate. There are no closed book examinations.

The course fosters a culture of continuous production and feedback at all levels. The course for the production of work and the presentation of work for feedback is structured, allowing you to plan your detailed schedule. The general expectation is that regular feedback is provided to enable you to improve your work and what it represents as learning. Formative feedback is given at tutorials and at crits, summative feedback is given through portfolio reviews and following the end of year assessments.

Thinking skills are assessed by:

- Coursework
- Examinations
- Project work

Practical skills are assessed by:

- Practical reports
- Portfolio completion

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by:

- Project work
- Group work

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Work or Study Placements

There is an **optional work placement opportunity** as part of this course between Level 5 and 6. The Course and Module Leaders will endeavour to aid any student wishing to take a year to gain work experience in the relevant industry before returning to complete their degree studies.

In addition, direct experience of the workplace will be supported through several practise visits during levels 4, 5 and 6. Students will be encouraged to participate and reflect on the different forms of practice that they have experienced as part of their professional studies projects. Students will also be exposed to several materials and furniture suppliers through lectures and factory visits. They will be encouraged to attend and to reflect upon some of the design and interior trade fairs that punctuate the design calendar in London and internationally. E.g. 100% Design, Clerkenwell Design Week, London Design Festival, Ecobuild, Milan Furniture Fair, the Venice Architecture Biennale.

It is widely recognised within the industry that relationships with clients and 'pitching' together with participation in the competition process are important aspects of any design studio activities. Therefore at Level 5 and 6, where feasible, a project with a 'live' client (for example as part of a retail or commercial project) will be set, and students will participate in a competition project in order to gain 'real time' experience in terms of working to deadlines and accumulating professional standard verbal and written presentation and communication skills.

In Level 6, as part of their design process, students will also be supported to engage with workplace mentors for workplace-based tutorials and with engineers who will consult on their final design.

The making of an academic portfolio is a cumulative exercise meaning it will be finally be produced at the end of the course, and this work is the main vehicle for seeking employment opportunities. All students will be required to participate in the annual end of year show, designing and building exhibitions of student work within the School and as part of Freerange; a London based graduate show for interior architecture and design graduates which many potential employers attend. This will also include participation in the annual student publication and in the compilation of on-line blogs and portfolios at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3: Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4: Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5: Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6: Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7: Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The **module structure** of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
4	AR4024	Design Investigation 1	20	Core	
4	AR4023	Design Resolution 1	20	Core	
4	AR4021	Material Integration 1	20	Core	
4	AR4027	Mental Wealth: Professional Life 1	20	Core	
4	AR4026	History and Theory 1	20	Core	
4	AR4025	Technical Studies & Representation 1	20	Core	

5	AR5020	Design Investigation 2	20	Core	
5	AR5021	Design Resolution 2	20	Core	
5	AR5024	Material Integration 2	20	Core	
5	AR5027	Mental Wealth: Professional Life 2	20	Core	
5	AR5022	History and Theory 2	20	Core	
5	AR5026	Technical Studies & Representation 2	20	Core	
		Optional Placement Year			
6	AR6023	Design Investigation 3	20	Core	
6	AR6025	Design Resolution 3	20	Core	
6	AR6021	Material Integration 3	20	Core	
6	AR6027	Mental Wealth: Professional Life 3	20	Core	
6	AR6026	History and Theory 3	20	Core	
6	AR6020	Integrated Technology	20	Core	

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, in order to create the best learning experience.

Additional detail about the course module structure:

A core module for a course is a module, which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-time or 5 years part-time.

A student cannot normally continue study on a course after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is 7 years from first enrolment.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

Students will be expected to cover their own costs for yearly field trips and a basic list of art materials and equipment which will be exactly indicated in a timetable at the beginning of their first year. However, it can be closely estimated that the primary costs to be expected are as follows:

- A mandatory complete set of drawing tools, graphic pens and pencils, stationary and portfolio case will be required for the course. This package is offered from a trusted supplier for the Level 4 students starting the course - £100 approx.
- Optional annual field trip to a European City (e.g. Venice) to include travel, accommodation and subsistence - £500 approx.

The University has excellent equipment facilities for borrowing cameras, software downloads and tutorials, sound equipment, lighting and computer facilities that the student will be entitled to use for free as part of their enrolment.

Professional Accreditation

This course does not have professional body accreditation although students are encouraged to make individual applications for accredited status.