

Work-based Project

Module Descriptor

Module Code: PRJ7WBP
Version: V3.00
Status: Final
Date: 12/08/2025

Work-based Project

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Work-based Project

Module Leader: Dr Steve Ruddock

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Spring (UK)

Level: 7

Credits: 40

Learning Hours: 400

Contact & Study Hours

Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities: 66 hrs (16.5%)

Guided Independent Study: 334 hrs (83.5%)

Assessment Type

Self-directed Research Project: 100%

Module Summary

This is a work-based research project module. It recognises that sustainability is evolving and keeping up with current affairs and competing agendas is challenging for practitioners and stakeholder organisations in the sector. Students will rehearse how to navigate the evolving discourse that is sustainability, how to understand and then critically appraise it for quality. Attention will be given to grey literature, UNSDG publications, pressure groups (accepting and denying sustainability), sustainable heritage publications and so on. The work-based project will typically either identify challenges or develop potential solutions or frameworks to challenges. As such, the project may draw heavily upon specific issues a student might be dealing with in the workplace. The work-based project may be more prescriptive, relying more upon professional practice and therefore have the potential of having immediate uptake and impact by a stakeholder audience (e.g., project, department, firm or organisation or broader stakeholder).

Taken on which Programmes

MSc Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments (E)*

Core (C) or Elective (E)

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*Students must choose the Work-based Project (PRJ7WBP) module or the Research Dissertation (PRJ7RED) module. Final Project Proposal (SUS7PRP) is a pre-requisite for this module.

Module Aims

This module aims to provide students the opportunity to build upon skills and knowledge from the programme. This involves undertaking research, whilst developing the necessary understanding, knowledge and skills, to produce a work-based project.

Students are provided with supervision to support their work-based project and writing on a topic of their choice.

Module Learning Outcomes

- LO1. Understand how a research project associated with sustainability might be undertaken to benefit the workplace or sector and identify a focus.
- LO2. Analyse how chosen topic relates to the built environment and themes of sustainability.
- LO3. Evaluate the impact of the research findings for the built environment sector.
- LO4. Transferable skills – critique reports, construct a convincing argument drawing upon that critique and managing a research project.
- LO5. Demonstrate the craft of work-based research through the delivery of a work-based final project.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- Supervisory guidance around critiquing the grey literature and current practice.
- Supervisory guidance around research aim, questions and objectives (as appropriate).
- Supervisory guidance around research method application in practice (where relevant).
- Supervisory guidance around rigour and appropriate claims.

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- Supervisory guidance around the relevance and applicability of research findings.
- Supervisory guidance around the topic.

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, moral and financial changes in professional standards and practice and the evolving body of knowledge around sustainability associated with the built environment.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4 & LO5	Work-based project	10,000	100%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 50%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library. Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the University e-Library.

Module tools

Students will have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

This is an independent student research project, guided and supported by a dissertation supervisor (University of the Built Environment academic team). Students will be supported through either individual or group meetings with their supervisor. Sessions will be recorded where appropriate to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session.

Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry

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publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit [the VLE e-Library](#).

Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, **Knowledge Foundations** – a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module VLE page and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.