1.	**Programme Title**	MArch
2.	**Unit Title**	HISTORY & THEORY: Dissertation
3.	**HE Level**	PG - FHEQ Level 7
4.	**Unit Code**	MAR17705
5.	**Credit Value of Unit**	30
6.	**Unit Type**	Mandatory
7.	**Unit Tutor**	TBC

8. Indicative Notional Learning Hours			
Staff – Student Contact		**Independent Study Hours**	
Classes (e.g. lectures, seminars and supervised group activity)	40	**Independent Study** (e.g. project development, reading, research and work on online forums)	210
Supervised Access to Resources	0	**Preparation for Assessment**	30
		Unsupervised Access to Resources	20
Total	40		260

9. Unit Introduction

This unit is intended to facilitate a critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design. Using material learned in the Contemporary Practice unit as well as the Making Places and Design and Technology units, students plan what they will do for the Comprehensive Design Thesis in Year 2, and choose a relevant aspect of it to research and write about using methodologies learned in the Research and Communications unit.

10. Aims of the Unit

The unit aims for students to develop the ability to:

- defend a theoretical/critical interpretation of an architectural topic by structured argument in a dissertation.

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly, through the medium of a dissertation to specialist and non-specialist audiences

- show initiative and innovation in the approach to and resolution of predicaments and issues and professional self direction in planning research strategies and applications

And thereby have satisfied the ARB/RIBA Criteria for Part 2 at FHEQ Level 7 as outlined in the Learning Outcomes

11. Indicative Content

- Dissertation precedent studies
- Application of Communication Unit research and presentation techniques to chosen subject seminars
- Chosen subject seminar sessions
- Face to face sessions with personal supervisor

12. Unit Learning Outcomes

In order to successfully satisfy the learning outcomes students are required to engage with the process of learning. The learning outcomes refer to developing the following **RIBA/ARB Graduate Attributes for Part 2** and **FHEQ Level 7 standards** and must be read in conjunction with these. With regard to meeting the eleven RIBA/ARB General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2, successful completion of this unit will contribute to the award of the Part 2 to students who have:

GA2.4 critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design;

and

GA2.7 ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required to prepare for qualification as an architect.

FHEQ Level 7:

- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship

- conceptual understanding that enables the student to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

- Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level, and continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level

- and will have the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

and upon completion of this unit will be able to demonstrate, in relation to:

ARB/RIBA General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2:

GC2.1 & 2 - Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences.

The graduate will have knowledge of:

2.1 the cultural, social and intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings.

2.2 the influence of history and theory on the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture.

as well as selecting one, or a combination of:

GC3.1 & 2 - Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.

The graduate will have knowledge of:

3.1 how the theories, practices and technologies of the arts influence architectural design

3.2 the creative application of the fine arts and their relevance and impact on architecture

GC4.1 & 2 – Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process

The graduate will have knowledge of:

4.1 theories of urban design and the planning of communities.

4.2 the influence of the design and development of cities, past and present, on the contemporary built environment.

GC6.3 – Understanding of the profession of architecture and the role of the architect in society, in particular in preparing briefs that take account of social factors.

The graduate will have an understanding of:

6.3 the potential impact of building projects on existing and proposed communities.

the following:

Learning Outcome	Marking Criteria	
1 The ability to define an appropriate research subject which refers to architectural issues of culture, theory and design.	☒ Research ☒ Analysis ☒ Subject Knowledge ☐ Experimentation	☐ Technical Competence ☒ Communication & Presentation ☒ Personal & Professional Development ☒ Collaborative and / or Independent Professional working
2 A holistic understanding of procedures relevant to their own investigations and the ability to	☒ Research ☒ Analysis	☒ Technical Competence ☒ Communication & Presentation

appraise the learning curve throughout their research project	☒ Subject Knowledge ☐ Experimentation	☒ Personal & Professional Development ☒ Collaborative and / or Independent Professional working
3 The ability to: - understand, evaluate and summarise the results of research findings in a range of histories and theories of architecture and its related disciplines, - critically appraise different arguments in texts - justify conclusions by structured argument demonstrating a systematic understanding of and originality in the application of knowledge in the form of a dissertation.	☒ Research ☒ Analysis ☒ Subject Knowledge ☐ Experimentation	☐ Technical Competence ☒ Communication & Presentation ☒ Personal & Professional Development ☒ Collaborative and / or Independent Professional working

13. Learning and Teaching Methods

This unit will be delivered using a combination of:

- Briefings ☒
- Lectures ☐
- Project work ☐
- Seminars ☒
- Workshops ☒
- Group work ☐
- Online activity ☐
- Individual Presentations and critiques ☒
- Group presentations and critiques ☐
- Self-directed independent study ☒
- Other (describe below) ☒

Relates to the Research and Communications Unit in which a series of workshops at the beginning of that unit prepare students with implementing strategies for achieving the Learning Outcomes.

Students will be familiarised with research methods and analytical tools appropriate for the subject of architecture.

Students will study Dissertation precedents sourced from the RIBA Presidents Medals website as well as in sourcebooks such as Borden.

On selection of a research topic, students will be assigned personal supervisor, who will advise them for the remainder of the period of the unit

At the interim stage, students will present their Dissertation topic to their colleagues.

14. Assessment Methods

The assessment for this unit is weighted. In element-based assessment, you must achieve at least D- in the overall unit. Failure (E, F, or F-), or non-submission in any element defaults to Fail for the unit.

- Interim Seminar Presentation and draft submission (20%) LO 1-2
- Final Submission 10,000 (+/- 10%) word essay (80%) LO 3

Assessment will be against the specified marking criteria.

All learning outcomes must be achieved at D- to pass this unit.

15. Reading and Resource List

Essential Reading

Bell, Judith (1993) *Doing Your Research Project,* Open University Press

Biggam, John, (2014) *Succeeding With Your Master's Dissertation: A Step-By-Step Handbook*, Open University Press

Blaxter, L., Hughes, C. & Tight, M. (2006) *How to Research,* 3rd Edition: OUP

Borden, Ian and Ruedi, Katarina. (2014) *The Dissertation: A Guide for Architecture Students,* Routledge

Cohen, Louis. and Manion, Lawrence. 2011(7th ed). Ch 1.The nature of enquiry in *Research Methods in Education*. Routledge. pp1-48.

Creswell, J. (2003) *Research Design Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches,* Sage

Farrell, Peter (2011) *Writing Built Dissertation*, Willey

Fellows, R. and Liu, A. (2003) *Research Methods for Construction,* 2nd Edition: Blackwell

Lucas, R. (2016) *Research Methods for Architecture*, Laurence King

Mounsey, Chris. (2013) *How to write: Successful Essays, Dissertations and Exams*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Naoum, S., G. (2012) *Dissertation Research & Writing for Construction Students*, Routledge

Ridley, Diana (2012) *The Literature Review: A Step-By-Step Guide For Students (Sage Study Skills Series),* Sage Publications Ltd

Wallace, Mike and Wray, Alison (2011) *Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates (Sage Study Skills Series)*, Sage Publications

URLs

RIBA President's Medal Dissertation submissions:

http://www.presidentsmedals.com/Entries/2015/0-1/1 latest & other years

https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/upgrade/study-skills/dissertations/

Further Reading and Resources

Further reading and resources will be identified in your Project Brief and in consultation with your supervisor in relation to the subject chosen.