A key component of the MSc Urban Design and Planning programme is that students will produce a thesis on a topic that is related to their chosen specialist area. The design thesis will let students explore a topic in depth and develop an innovative urban design response with guidance from an academic supervisor. The key difference between the design thesis and other assignments is that the question is set by the student. The design thesis is therefore a test of the student's ability to generate an interesting and relevant question relating to a specific urban design challenge, to critically review relevant academic literature, to develop a coherent research methodology, to generate and analyse results, and to apply research in developing an innovative project-based urban design response. In short, it is a test of the student's intellectual ability to work independently. The design thesis will give students an opportunity to develop a more in-depth understanding of their subject, to develop specialist knowledge and skills, to expand and hone research and design skills, and to cultivate individual initiative and judgement.

What will I learn?

On completion of the thesis the student will:
- Recognise the need and value of high quality research as an essential requirement in contributing to the delivery of innovative urban design solutions in practice.
- Have generated an interesting and relevant topic with coherent aims and objectives.
- Have conducted a search and critical review of the academic literature on the topic, and in particular to have reviewed the peer reviewed journal literature.
- Have developed and implemented an appropriate research methodology for the topic.
- Have analysed the results using relevant techniques (Quantitative and/or qualitative).
- Have developed conclusions which reflect on their research results and how it relates to the broader academic literature, to policy and to practice.
- Have developed an advanced ability to apply concepts, theory and research skills to generate robust, integrated and evidence-based responses to urban design and planning challenges in practice.

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How will I be assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Open Book</th>
<th>Component Scale</th>
<th>Must Pass Component</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essay: Thesis</td>
<td>Coursework (End of Trimester)</td>
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<td>Graded</td>
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What happens if I fail?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resit In</th>
<th>Terminal Exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Assessment feedback

Feedback individually to students, post-assessment

The dissertation is examined by two readers and an evaluation form, and grades are delivered through the online system. However, preliminary feedback will be given before participants are matched with supervisors, and thereafter feedback will be received from the supervisors themselves.

Reading List

<dd>Liam Heaphy</dd>
<dt>Mode of Delivery:</dt>
<dd>Face-to-Face</dd>
<dt>Internship Module:</dt>
<dd>No</dd>
<dt>Clinical/ Fieldwork/ Placement:</dt>
<dd>Not yet recorded</dd>
<dt>How will I be graded?</dt>
<dd>Letter grades</dd>