



# University of Chester

## University of Chester

Programme Specification  
Interior Design BA (Hons) (Level 6 only)  
2020 - 2021

### 1. Final Award

Bachelor of Arts (Level 6 only)

### 2. Programme Title

Interior Design

### 3. Internal Programme Title

Interior Design (Further Learning Top-Up)

### 4. Intermediate / Exit Awards

4a. Award

4b. Title

### 5. Awarding Institution / Body

University of Chester

### 6. Programme Delivered By

Further Learning Group

### 7. Location of Delivery

Online / Blended Learning

### 8. Framework

Undergraduate Modular Programme

### 9. Mode of Study

Part-time

### 10. Forms of Study

Distance,				
<b>11. Normal length of study</b>				
One-Two years				
<b>12. Maximum length of study</b>				
3 Years				
<b>13. Frequency of intake / starting month</b>				
Variable - Variable				
<b>14. UCAS Code</b>				
N/A				
<b>15. JACS Code</b>				
HECoS 101316				
<b>16. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check Required?</b>				
No				
<b>17. Faculty &amp; Department</b>				
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>17a. Faculty</td> <td>17b. Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arts and Humanities</td> <td>Art and Design</td> </tr> </table>	17a. Faculty	17b. Department	Arts and Humanities	Art and Design
17a. Faculty	17b. Department			
Arts and Humanities	Art and Design			
<b>18. Subject Benchmarking Group</b>				
Art and Design (QAA, 2017)				
<b>19. Professional Recognition By (if applicable)</b>				
N/A				
<b>20. Name of Module Assessment Board (MAB)</b>				
TBC				
<b>21. Date of Approval</b>				
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2020				
<b>22. Educational Aims of the Programme</b>				

The Interior Design (Top-Up) programme is intended to prepare students for a career in interior design, either within employment or running their own practice. Students will develop the knowledge and skills that are relevant to professional practice in interior design within residential and commercial contexts, while harnessing their creativity and enabling them to contribute to culture, society, and the economy. The programme will place particular emphasis on environmental developments to challenge students to produce creative, sustainable designs for an international, increasingly demanding and creatively challenging market.

**This Interior Design (Top-Up) programme aims to:**

1. equip students with the ability to apply and continuously develop their technical knowledge and practical skills within complex and challenging project constraints encompassing a range of specialist fields within interior design.
2. support and encourage students to develop their own visual language to communicate their vision with personality, skill and intellectual meaning.
3. enable students to positively contribute to culture, society, the economy and the environment through innovative and forward-thinking design solutions.
4. provide a student experience that fosters autonomy, individuality and creativity and promotes accountability for their achievements.
5. foster independent learning and enquiry and encourage critical self-awareness and independent judgement.
6. equip students with the confidence and courage to make sound judgments based on extensive enquiry, evaluation and analysis of facts, concepts, and research data.
7. nurture skills of critical enquiry, investigation and analysis of a range of different sources and utilise the outcome for the development of creative and innovative design solutions.
8. provide an environment that allows students to become independent thinkers, designers and practitioners that have the ability to work with minimal supervision on complex projects with demanding criteria.

**23. Programme Outcomes**

**Knowledge and Understanding**

**Key areas for this programme are a critical understanding of Interior Design practice and the application of appropriate criteria for evaluating design solutions; to articulate, synthesise and generate knowledge and understanding in effective ways. By the end of the programme students will have the knowledge and understanding:**

- of the wider contextual dimensions of interior design in relation to the past and future technological, environmental, cultural and sociological developments. [AR6502, AR6501, AR6303]
- of the major developments in the use of technologies, processes, practices and media in interior design. [AR6502, AR6501]
- of the issues facing interior designers that arise from their external relationships with contractors, clients, consumers, markets and users. [AR6501]
- of how research, analysis, evaluation and interpretation inform the design and development process and can be applied to written and practical outcomes. [AR6501, AR6303]
- of the appropriate methods, sources, materials and techniques needed to inform selection. [AR6502, AR6502, AR6303]

**Cognitive Skills**

**Students will demonstrate a sound application of analytical, critical and descriptive language and enter into reasoned and substantiated review and reflection. By the end of the programme students will have the cognitive and intellectual skills to:**

- effectively analyse, debate and reason their outcomes for practical and written work in a variety of contexts related to interior design. [AR6502, AR6501, AR6303]
- critically analyse and evaluate information based on strategic use of research methodologies and data to arrive at informed decisions. [AR6502, AR6501, AR6303]
- promote their ability to synthesise information, knowledge, contexts and relationships to generate outcomes that are coherent and resolved. [AR6502, AR6501, AR6303]
- critically analyse and evaluate a variety of complex findings from robust sources to form conclusions and formulate reasoned and substantiated recommendations that are unbiased and fact based. [AR6303, AR6502]
- utilise their understanding of interior design theory, practice and processes to create innovative design solutions. [AR6502, AR6501]
- engage with new technologies and processes and evaluate their suitability for the realisation of their own outcomes. [AR6502, AR6501]

**Practical and Professional Skills**

**Practical and professional skills are embedded throughout all aspects of the programme. Students will be required to manage their time effectively and present professional level presentations. Creativity and sustainability are key elements requiring consideration. By the end of the programme Practical and Professional skills to:**

- complete commercial interior design projects with confidence and to a professional standard from inception to completion. [A6502, AR6501]

- apply appropriate methods, processes and techniques to a variety of challenging interior design contexts. [A6501, A6502, A6303]
- produce a portfolio of work at a level appropriate for submission to a prospective employer, audience or client. [A6502, A6501]
- apply practical intelligence, creativity and inventiveness with a clear focus on project briefs and constraints to create innovative design. [AR6502, AR6501]
- demonstrate a sophisticated level of understanding and practical application of professional codes of conduct relevant to interior design. [AR6501]
- be able to plan and manage interior design projects autonomously in response to a range of challenging client briefs. [AR6502, AR6501]
- flexibly and creatively identify and solve complex problems. [AR6502, AR6501, AR6303]
- initiate self-directed and independent learning using feedback to analyse and develop their own abilities and to provide revised alternative solutions for outcomes. [AR6501, AR6502, AR6303]
- independently and responsibly organise and manage their own schedule of work and meet deadlines. [AR6501, AR6303]

## Communication Skills

**The effective communication of ideas and the articulation of knowledge synthesized are key criteria within the programme. Students will present and defend their work verbally and through written reports and essays which should demonstrate refined critical writing ability. By the end of this programme students will have communication skills to:**

- be able to confidently and professionally present work to a client/target audience, using appropriate media and subject-specific terminology and to debate the outcome. [AR6502, AR6501]
- have the confidence and resilience needed to engage with and learn from the feedback of others. [AR6502, AR6501]
- apply to their interpersonal skills to build professional client relationships and to communicate effectively with others in a wide range of professional scenarios. [AR6501]
- identify and communicate creative intentions with passion and clarity. [AR6502, AR6501]
- clearly and articulately demonstrate the ability to communicate ideas and critically reflect on these. [AR6502, AR6501, AR6303]

## 24. Programme Structure and Features; Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

### 24a. Programme Structure and Features (levels, modules, credits, awards)

The Interior Design (Top-Up) Level 6 BA (Hons) Degree is designed as a progression route for holders of a Higher National Diploma or a Foundation Degree, in the area of interior design, or the equivalent.

It is comprised of three compulsory modules (20, 40 and 60 credit modules) for a total of 120 credits and a Total Qualification Time of 1200 hours.

The top-up allows students to focus on a specialist area of their choice through the completion of a major project. The overarching focus of the top-up is on the impact the industry has on the environment and how the use of sustainable materials and sources, and the application of future techniques and processes can help to develop creative, innovative outcomes.

The dissertation module will allow the student to deepen their investigative research skills. They decide on a research hypothesis of their choosing and the research findings from the dissertation will inform the student's work in the major project module. The student is free to choose the specialist area for the major project module.

### Hospitality Design

In this module, students will research niche markets whilst exploring innovation and development in hospitality design, especially focusing on the environment and sustainable solutions. Students will develop their knowledge of the legislation, health and safety and future technologies and materials relevant to this sector of design. They will use their knowledge and skills to create space planning and concept designs for a hospitality project of their choosing.

### Dissertation

This module covers content relevant to the successful completion of a dissertation in an area relevant to interior design. The topic of the dissertation will be agreed with a tutor/dissertation supervisor at the beginning of the module and students will be encouraged to link the research with their major project however this is optional. The dissertation should be illustrated and approximately 8000 words.

### Major Project

In this module, students will identify, design, develop and critically reflect on a major design project of their choosing relevant to interior design. This project will allow students to apply the knowledge and skills they have built to date, to an area of specialist interest to them. It allows the students to create a body of work which is representative of their creative aspirations but also showcases their ability to manage a project from concept to completion. The key focus of the major project will be on future technology and materials to create complex design solutions with a focus on environmental issues in the design sector.

### 24b. Module Structure

Mod-Code	Level	Title	Credit	Single
AR6303	6	Dissertation	40	Comp
AR6501	6	Major Project Interior Design	60	Comp
AR6502	6	Hospitality Design	20	Comp

## 24c. Credit Accumulation

Level 6: A student who has completed the Level 6 BA (Hons) in Interior Design (Top-Up) will have accumulated 360 credits (240 credits carried forward from a HND/Foundation Degree and 120 credits from the Top-Up), and will be eligible for the award of an honours degree.

## 24d. Details of any derogation from University Regulations (if applicable)

None

## 25. Professional Body Requirements (if applicable)

None

## 26. Admission Requirements

A Higher National Diploma or Foundation Degree in the area of interior design, or the equivalent. Note: Applicants may be required to attend a virtual interview for portfolio review.

## 27. Subject Benchmark Statements

The BA (Hons) in Interior Design (Top-Up) reflects the Subject Benchmark Statement for Art & Design (February 2017) and the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (October 2014), both available from the QAA website ([www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)).

Level 6 is consistent with FHEQ honours level, where graduates “*will have developed an understanding of a complex body of knowledge, some of it at the current boundaries of an academic discipline. Through this, the holder will have developed analytical techniques and problem-solving skills that can be applied in many types of employment. The holder of such a qualification will be able to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions, to reach sound judgements and to communicate them effectively. Holders of a bachelor's degree with honours should have the qualities needed for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances.*”

## 28. Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods

Students are assessed through online assessments that are delivered and submitted through the Online Learning Centre - a secure, proprietary learning platform developed for Further Learning Group. The assessment methods to be used will include the following:

- Written work (e.g. essays, blogs, dissertation)
- Technical drawings, prototypes, models and visualisations
- Presentations/digital recordings
- Sketchbooks
- Reflective journals
- Research journals
- Annotated concept boards and sample boards

Each module will be assessed through multiple assessment components. These assessment components will be submitted through the Online Learning Centre for review from a designated tutor. Each assessment component carries a designated weighting contributing to the total mark for the module which are given as percentages.

For each submission, students will receive comprehensive, developmental formative feedback from a tutor who is active within the interior design industry.

All modules provide for a combination of assignment deliverables to be assessed formatively, with diagnostic assessment conducted through tutor-student interactions and feedback. Summative assessment will be staged at strategic points throughout each module with the submission of assessment components. Assessment strategy and assessment component details are evidenced in the module descriptors - specifically sections 11, 12 and 13. At the end of each component, the student receives summative feedback and a provisional grade.

Each student will be designated a tutor. This tutor will be the student's main source of support throughout their course. Students will receive feedback from different tutors who are industry experts, active within the interior

design industry, and are particularly knowledgeable and experienced in topics relevant to the student's chosen specialist area.

One-to-one/small group tutorial support from a senior tutor via an online meeting platform (i.e. whereby.com) will also be a feature of the programme. Students will also have the opportunity to avail of support from the Student Services Team who are trained in QA Policies and Procedures, use of the Online Learning System and the Harvard Referencing and Citation System.

The Online Learning Centre (OLC) will be a valuable resource for students through which they can access course materials, including written content and video tutorials relevant to each module of the programme. Collaborative learning is encouraged through the OLC's Student Forum, allowing students to communicate with their tutors and other students, and through an online meeting platform (i.e. whereby.com). The students will also have access to a relevant online library resource (e.g. Bloomsbury Design Library).

Students will be expected to manage their time effectively and to complete their modules within the maximum time frames provided. They will be expected to conduct primary and secondary research outside of what is provided within the course material and resources in order to fully understand the specifics of the area of industry that they are interested in.

## **29. Careers and Employability**

This programme prepares students for a career in the interior design industry, equipping students with knowledge and skills applicable to a wide range of practice areas. The Interior Design (Top-Up) programme encourages students to specialise in a specific area of interest, thereby creating a very robust and effective portfolio of work to show prospective employers or clients.

## **30. Equality**

The Academy is committed to the promotion of diversity, equality and inclusion in all its forms; through different ideas and perspectives, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

We are committed to ensuring that Students have equal opportunity to access assessments and qualifications, and a fair and consistent assessment process. We have an Equal Opportunities policy and a Widening Participation policy.

## **31. Additional Information**