

MA Interiors (Architecture and Design)

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	MA Interiors (Architecture and Design)
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	N/A
5. Final qualification(s) available	MA Interiors (Architecture and Design) PG Dip. Interiors (Architecture and Design) PG Cert. Interiors (Architecture and Design)
6. Year effective from	2021/22
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time or Part-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Appropriate qualifications or experience:

- a good undergraduate degree (normally a 2:2 or better) in a subject-specific or related design subject, or a recognized, equivalent professional qualification;
- applicants with a good undergraduate degree in an unrelated subject but with substantial professional experience within the field of interiors, and who are able to demonstrate an aptitude for working in the subject at postgraduate level;
- we celebrate inclusivity and diversity and welcome applicants without the normal qualifications but who have extensive and substantial work experience in appropriate fields.

In all cases, admission to the programme is dependent on:

- evidence of subject-related knowledge and skills, and of critical subject engagement, demonstrated through an annotated digital portfolio of relevant academic and professional work submitted in a suitable format;
- sufficient command of the English language. Applicants for whom English is not their first language must provide evidence of attainment to an IELTS overall score of 6.5 or higher (with no component less than 6.0), or **equivalent** qualification;
- at least 2 supportive academic, and/or where relevant, professional references;
- an Introductory Study Statement which illustrates subject interests, motivations and aspirations, including an outline of a specific area of interest that could provide the context for an extended and advanced study. This statement should reference the following:
 - the general field or topic of interest within the subject area;
 - prior academic and/or professional experience directly or indirectly related to the discipline;
 - any evidence of initial enquiry or exploration in the area of interest.

This statement will form the basis of a short presentation to be made to student colleagues and tutors during the first week of the programme – Welcome Week. Please note that the statement made will be taken as an indication of the applicant's depth of interest in, knowledge of and potential to identify and undertake interiors orientated research activities and needs to be provided, but does NOT commit applicants to the specific subject for their further studies.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- provide an inspiring and innovative academic environment that encourages and supports an exploratory, reflective and critical approach to advanced research and creative design practice for interiors.
- promote an investigative, speculative and experimental approach to creative design practice for interiors, framed and informed by the subject's interdisciplinary nature and interrelationships between theory, research and practice;

- explore, critically analyse and evaluate diverse typologies and methodologies of enquiry and research within, across and beyond the disciplines of Interiors Architecture and Design, and to adapt exploit and apply them to the creative design practice;
- enable students to delineate and examine a particular and self-determined aspect of interiors, and to develop in depth and produce a substantial, focussed, articulate, coherent and rigorous body of relevant advanced research and creative design work;
- promote collaboration and knowledge exchange, via a variety of platforms for working partnerships in industry;
- embed environmental awareness through a thorough understanding of materiality and making technologies in the promotion of sustainable environments;
- identify and implement advanced enquiry and learning strategies to underpin and extend knowledge and skills in creative, research, and professional design practice for interiors;
- create leaders in industry who will shape a better world through social concern related to and embedded within advanced research and creative practice.

11. Programme outcomes*	
<p>The programme Learning Outcomes are based on 7 core teaching, learning and assessment strands:</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will have gained the following knowledge and ability :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research: Advanced approaches and methodologies in creative design thinking, professional practice and research. To determine appropriate research questions and needs and identify effective means and methodologies for meeting them, executed through both collaborative and individual endeavour. 2. Process: A range of complex interrelationships between creative design theory, research and practice. To assess and 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students gain knowledge and ability through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation in studios, workshops, lectures, seminars and tutorials; • self-directed studies. <p>Assessment methods Students' knowledge and ability is assessed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a range of submitted coursework, including written work, presentations and submission of a <i>Research Field Book</i>, <i>Design Development Journal</i>, and <i>Final Proposal Publication</i> of the Realise: Independent Research and Design Project

<p>evaluate the validity of research and design evidence through analysis, argument and critical reflection in self-directed learning, organisation and management.</p> <p>3. Design: How the principles and operation of creative design practice can be applied as an advanced research activity and methodology. To investigate, articulate, frame, test and direct, relevant topics of enquiry and complex ideas and proposals in research and design practice.</p> <p>4. Making: Materiality and its multi-sensory influence in the formation, realisation, function and experience of interiors. To specify, review and critical reflect on materials and making technologies relative to ecological and socio-economic implications.</p> <p>5. Communication: Advanced representation methods and media To articulate, synthesise consolidate, and communicate complex concepts, and creative approaches and proposals in design, enabling advanced development of personal practice.</p> <p>6. Practice: The socio-economic, cultural, historical and ethical contexts and roles of creative practice, and key contemporary issues related to Interiors, Architecture and Design. To apply critical and reflective strategies in research and professional practice, for effective industry engagement and career development.</p> <p>7. Employability: Self-evaluation and personal career development and employability opportunities related to advanced level professional</p>	
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<p>practice. To effectively manage – explore, develop, realise and evaluate - a complex creative design and/or research project to impact on the industry and enhance opportunity for advanced career development.</p>	
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12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

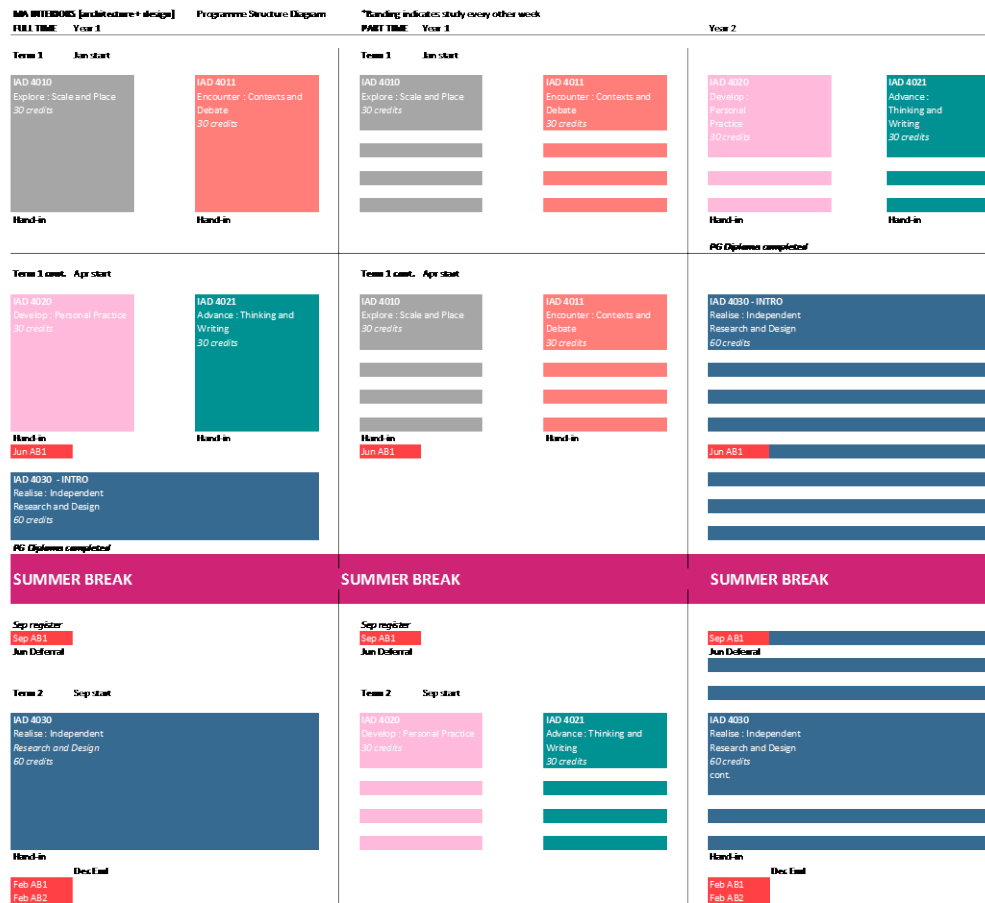
12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

The programme develops your knowledge and skills in space and place-making in order to encourage creative innovation within the broad remit of Interiors Architecture and Design. The contexts of the interior encompass processes, theories and histories involving the adaptation, reuse and reinvention of the built urban environment, from the room to the city, all involving a diversity of human occupation, use, perception and experience. Through both established and experimental approaches, workshop enquiry, theoretical interpretation and critical investigation students will develop and advance their personal approach to the understanding and design of interiors, supported by expert academic and technical guidance and the use of state-of- the-art facilities.

Students undertake four 30 credit modules and a final 60 credit module at Level 7:

- **IAD4010** Explore : Scale and Place (*30 credits*)
- **IAD4011** Encounter : Contexts and Debate (*30 credits*)
- **IAD4020** Develop : Personal Practice (*30 credits*)
- **IAD4021** Advance : Thinking and Writing (*30 credits*)
- **IAD4030** Realise : Independent Research and Design (*60 credits*)

In **full-time** mode, the programme is undertaken in a single calendar year comprising three 12 week stages. In **part-time** mode, the programme is undertaken over two calendar years comprising three 24 week stages. There is a single entry point in January.



On successful completion of 60 credits (**IAD4010; IAD4011**) students are eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate exit Award, and on successful completion of 120 credits (**IAD4010; IAD4011; IAD4020; IAD4021**) for a Postgraduate Diploma exit Award. Students must complete the 120 credits for the Postgraduate Diploma before commencing the final 60 credit module that leads to the MA award.

Each 30 credit module requires a total of 300 hours of study (comprising taught sessions, the guided use of campus resources and independent study), supplemented by contributions from visiting academics and professional practitioners. Students should expect to commit a minimum of 36 hours/week (**full-time**) or 18 hours/ week **i.e. every other week (part-time)** to their studies. Contact teaching and input from visitors is front-loaded in the first two stages and consists of studio sessions, lectures, seminars, workshops, group and individual tutorials. Learning in these stages leads progressively towards self- directed study in the final stage, which is supported through periodic individual and group supervision and access to campus resources and facilities.

All the preliminary modules are intended to provide students with the context, knowledge and skills necessary for the initiation, development and realisation of a

significant self- directed project in the **IAD4030** module, the final submission for which is a substantial creative design and/or research presentation including a comprehensive project publication.

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY

OPTIONAL

PROGRESSION
REQUIREMENTS

<p>Full-time students must take all of the following:</p> <p><u>Term 1</u></p> <p>IAD4010 Explore : Scale and Place (30 credits) IAD4011 Encounter : Contexts and Debate (30 credits)</p> <p><u>Term 2</u></p> <p>IAD4020 Develop : Personal Practice(30 credits) IAD4021 Advance : Thinking and Writing (30 credits)</p> <p><u>Term 3</u></p> <p>IAD4030 Realise : Independent Research and Design (60 credits)</p> <p>Part-time students must take all the following modules:</p> <p><u>Terms 1 + 2</u></p> <p>IAD4010 Explore : Scale and Place (30 credits) IAD4011 Encounter : Contexts and Debate (30 credits)</p> <p><u>Terms 3 + 4</u></p> <p>IAD4020 Develop : Personal Practice(30 credits) IAD4021 Advance : Thinking and Writing (30 credits)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>On successful completion of:</p> <p><u>PGCert.</u></p> <p>IAD4010 30 credits</p> <p>IAD4011 30 credits</p> <p><u>PGDip.</u></p> <p>IAD4010 30 credits</p> <p>IAD4011 30 credits</p> <p>IAD4020 30 credits</p> <p>IAD4021 30 credits</p>
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<u>Terms 5 + 6</u>		
IAD4030 Realise : Independent Research and Design (60 credits)		

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
Level 7	IAD4010
Level 7	IAD4011
Level 7	IAD4020
Level 7	IAD4021
Level 7	IAD4030

13. Information about assessment regulations
<p>Refer to the University Regulations at http://www.mdx.ac.uk/ regulations for the complete Assessment Regulations. Further information on assessment is also available on the Your Study pages of UniHub at http://www.unihub.mdx.ac.uk</p> <p>All modules are graded on the University 1–20 Marking Scale, and attracts graded credit which determines the level of the MA Award (Pass, Merit or Distinction).</p> <p>Self-deferral is not permitted on any module. Students seeking to defer should consult a Progression & Support Advisor and Assessment Officer.</p>

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support
N/A

15. Future careers / progression
<p>The programme provides an insight into the benefits of reflective practice, aiding postgraduates to develop as autonomous learners. It offers the opportunity to work in depth on a major self-directed project, that could lead to a wide-range of future career paths in the Interiors, Architecture and Design industry, or in research and scholarly fields. The programme also develops the advanced skills necessary for progression to higher academic qualifications and doctoral research.</p>

16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to Interior Architecture and Design studios and specialist computer facilities;

- a wide range of workshop facilities and technical staff provide the technical input for the making and realization of any studio-based outputs required for the research projects;
- extensive library facilities, resources and support, including:
Support from our subject specialist Librarian (training sessions, appointments, enquiries)
More information in our Online Subject Guide:
<https://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/interiorarchitectureinteriordesign>
A wide ranging library collection, including:
Specialist books and journals (electronic and print)
Specialist databases (WGSN Lifestyle and Interiors, DigiMap etc)
Interactive online resources (LinkedIn Learning, Kanopy, Box of Broadcasts etc)
[Special collections in the Library's Materials Room](#)
[Materials Room video](#)
Collections include a broad ranging samples collection of loanable manufacturers' product samples. Items include fabrics, glass, plastics, wire mesh, marble, paper, paint and laminates. More information at: <https://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/specialcolls/samples>
- close liaison with and contributions to the teaching support from colleagues in the Learning Enhancement Team and CAPE

17. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	K122
18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Architecture (Hons; Masters) Art & Design (Hons) History of Art, Architecture & Design (Hons)

19. Reference points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant University Regulations http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/ • QAA Subject Review Report 9Q231/99 (Art and Design) • QAA Subject Overview Report Q013/2000 (Art and Design) • Middlesex University Strategic Plan • Faculty of Arts and Creative Industries Strategic Plan • Learning and Teaching Policy and Strategy • Student, Staff, External Examiners and Graduates feedback and comments

20. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Curriculum map for MA Interiors (Architecture and Design)

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and Ability :	
1	Research: Advanced approaches and methodologies in creative design thinking, professional practice and research. To determine appropriate research questions and needs and identify effective means and methodologies for meeting them, executed through both collaborative and individual endeavour.
2	Process: A range of complex interrelationships between creative design theory, research and practice. To assess and evaluate the validity of research and design evidence through analysis, argument and critical reflection in self-directed learning, organisation and management.
3	Design: How the principles and operation of creative design practice can be applied as an advanced research activity and methodology. To investigate, articulate, frame, test and direct, relevant topics of enquiry and complex ideas and proposals in research and design practice.
4	Making: Materiality and its multi-sensory influence in the formation, realisation, function and experience of interiors. To specify, review and critical reflect on materials and making technologies relative to ecological and socio-economic implications.
5	Communication: Advanced representation methods and media. To articulate, synthesise consolidate, and communicate complex concepts, and creative approaches and proposals in design, enabling advanced development of personal practice.
6	Practice: The socio-economic, cultural, historical and ethical contexts and roles of creative practice, and key contemporary issues related to Interiors, Architecture and Design. To apply critical and reflective strategies in research and professional -practice, for effective industry engagement and career development.
7	Employability: Self-evaluation and personal career development and employability opportunities related to advanced level professional practice. To effectively manage – explore, develop, realise and evaluate - a complex creative design and/or research project to impact on the industry and enhance opportunity for advanced career development.

Programme outcomes						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Highest level achieved by all graduates						
7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Module Title	Module Code by Level							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Explore : Scale and Place	IAD4010	X	X	X	X	X		
Encounter : Contexts and Debate	IAD4011	X	X			X	X	
Develop : Personal Practice	IAD4020	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Advance : Thinking and Writing	IAD4021	X	X			X	X	
Realise : Independent Research and Design	IAD4030	X	X	X	X	X	X	X