

APPROVED

By Deborah Branton at 2:38 pm, May 13, 2020

University of Plymouth

Academic Partnerships

The Dartington Hall Trust

Programme Specification

MA Ecological Design Thinking 6872 (ft) 6875 (pt)

7th February 2020

1. MA Ecological Design Thinking

Final award title	MA Ecological Design Thinking
Level 7 Intermediate award title(s)	PGDip Ecological Design Thinking
Level 7 Intermediate award title(s)	PGCert Ecological Design Thinking
UCAS code	N/A
HECOS code	100048 design

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): The Dartington Hall Trust. Registered in England as a company limited by guarantee, Company No. 1485560. Registered charity, Charity No. 279756. Registered office: The Elmhirst Centre, Dartington Hall, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EL.

3. **Accrediting body(ies)** None

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

- The Schumacher learning low-residency model features regular intensive periods of residential experiences for each of the first four modules. This is augmented by a virtual community where students will be encouraged to further develop their Ecosophy (deep experience, critical questioning and authentic commitment)
- Short intensive teaching and learning approach is provided within a living and working community enclaved within the Dartington estate, Devon.
- The synergetic relationship between the postgraduate programmes, the Horticulture programme and participants enrolled on Schumacher short courses maintain our learning environment lively and enable cross-disciplinary collaborations.
- Ecological Design Thinking programme draws from a very wide international audience and broad demographic. These major changes intend to also appeal a domestic audience who are in a position to commit to short residential periods away from their day-to-day activities.

- The pedagogy blends immersive, embodied, in-community experiences with specially developed on-line modes of delivery to form a low-residency experience. This will include and leverage Penoptical systems (webcam) that will allow for interaction (live shared experiences) and peer-to-peer learning. Students work in a virtual studio environment where interactive, emergent, synchronistic and 'live' encounters are encouraged and give rise to the (first person), deep, experiential learning that Schumacher College is renowned for.
- Our Ecological Design Thinking is a trans-disciplinary programme in the context of complex environments and systems. It is universal in its application and pragmatic and integrative in its operation.
- Access to some of the world's leading ecological design practitioners and thinkers and experts in the fields of Gaia theory, complexity theory, climate science, systems thinking, new economics and social change ensures that the programme is up-to date and relevant to the time.
- The programme is committed to the vision of social and ecological well-being for all and advocates regenerative, rather than sustainable solutions to socio-ecological problems.
- Our programme draws from leading-edge research and brings together theoretical and practical discourses in ecology, design and socio-political economics. It aims to create a novel ground for change-makers to model and foster a transition to regenerative societies.
- The low residency model allowing remote access to the programme creates opportunities for students to connect with their local places as a way of embedding the value and experience of the programme into their local community settings.
- The programme applies design thinking and design research to catalyse imaginative, community-led and practical approaches towards regenerative systems.
- The programme provides students with opportunities to develop both a theoretical and experimental understanding of holistic ways of responding to the complex social and ecological issues and concerns.
- This programme prepares students to take an active role in moving towards regenerative practices by integrating co-designing processes and deep ecological understanding.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

The programme has been developed with reference to the SEEC level 7 Descriptors (2010) and QAA guidance. There are no directly applicable QAA subject benchmarks for this programme. However, we have considered and built on a number of attributes listed in QAA benchmark statements for Art & Design (2017) and Architecture (2010), and QAA Characteristic Statement for Master's degree (Sept 2015) that describes: the purpose of master degrees, characteristics of students, and for our specific programme professional practice.

6. Programme Structure

New proposed structure:

MA Ecological Design Thinking - Level 7					
(Low-Res) Full Time 1-year					
Core Theoretical Modules Autumn Term		Core studio Modules Spring Term		Major Project Summer Term	
SCH5449 <i>Design & ecology</i>	SCH5450 <i>Design & society</i>	SCH5451 <i>Design & place</i>	SCH5452 <i>Design in practice</i>	SCH5453 <i>Major Project - Dissertation</i>	
Eco systems, deep ecology and the re-enchantment of the world. <i>(30 credits)</i>	Social change and art of making. <i>(30 credits)</i>	The context of location and deep empathy. <i>(30 credits)</i>	Impact and transformation. <i>(30 credits)</i>	<i>(60 credits)</i>	
R	E - learning	R	E - learning	E - learning	
PG Cert. 60 credits <i>term 1</i>		PG Dip. 120 credits <i>term 2</i>		MA. 180 credits <i>term 3</i>	

MA Ecological Design Thinking is a low residency programme with 4 x 30 credit modules and 1 x 60 credit (dissertation) module.

The first four (30 credit) modules will include:

- 1 or 2-week intensive/residential element at Schumacher College followed by,
- 4 weeks supported e-learning.

Students can take the course full-time over one year, or part-time over two years.

Part-time students would gain their 180 MA credits by completing modules SCH5449 (30 credits), SCH550 (30 credits) and SCH551 (30 credits) alongside full-time students in Academic Year 1. They will join the cohort in the following year to

complete modules SCH5452 (30 credits) and SCH5453 (60 credits) in Academic Year 2. Please see diagram below:

MA Ecological Design Thinking – Level 7 (low res) Part Time Year 1					
Core Theoretical Modules Autumn Term				Core studio Modules Spring Term	
SCH5449 <i>Design & ecology</i> (30 credits)	SCH5450 <i>Design & society</i> (30 credits)		SCH5451 <i>Design & place</i> (30 credits)		
R	E - learning	R	E - learning	R	E - learning
PG Cert. 60 credits term1				PG Dip. 120 credits term 2	

MA Ecological Design Thinking- Level 7 (low res) Part Time Year 2							
				Core studio Modules Spring Term		Major Project Summer Term	
				SCH5452 <i>Design in practice</i> (30 credits)		SCH5453 <i>Major Project - Dissertation</i> (60 credits)	
				R	E - learning	E - learning	
				PG Dip. 120 credits term 2		MA. 180 credits term 3	

7. Programme Aims

- To develop knowledge and understanding of different ways of engaging with social and ecological systems.
- To acknowledge and develop the whole person as a participant in the co-creation of pathways to ecological and socially just cultures.
- To provide students with the opportunity to evaluate and critically reflect on the relationship between self, others and the environment.
- To provide theoretical knowledge of the Ecological Design Thinking principles and practical skills for implementing socially and environmentally just strategies.

- To enhance students' skills and confidence to engage with groups and facilitate collaborative processes to reach/achieve results.
- To enhance students' critical thinking, systemic thinking and ethical thinking in any given situation
- To enable students to design systemic approaches to navigate through complex socio-cultural and ecological situations
- To develop and enhance students' cognitive and intellectual skills; key transferable skills; and practice skills for sustainable living, livelihood and engaged ecological citizenship.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes MA

(see appendix 1 for programme Intended learning outcomes MA mapping table.)

8.1. Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion graduates will have developed:

8.1.1. An ability to critically describe the theoretical and experiential understanding of an ecological world view (ecology, systems thinking, complexity, and Gaia theory) and its application to the design of systems, objects, social interventions and places.

8.1.2. An ability to critically appraise quantitative and qualitative frameworks, tools, methods and case studies related to ecological design thinking and their application to socio-cultural, environmental and economic contexts.

8.1.3. An ability to identify, select and apply alternative sources of knowledge and processes that can be employed to address the current crises and interconnectedness of our economic, social, ethical and ecological systems.

8.1.4. An ability to build on existing research and develop in-depth critical analysis within a specific Ecological Design context.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed:

8.2.1. An ability to critically engage with the theoretical literature demonstrating the ability to analyse, evaluate, compare and contrast, synthesise and work creatively with conflicting ideas and uncertainty.

8.2.2. An ability to develop original insight into cultural narratives and socio-economic behaviours through both active and reflective processes and to creatively apply resolutions towards a regenerative ecological paradigm.

8.2.3. An ability to critically develop and systematically test, analyse and appraise design options drawing original conclusions and displaying methodological and theoretical rigour.

8.2.4. An ability to identify a suitable research topic, plan and develop a project design, analyse the issue using an appropriate methodology, synthesise findings, reflect on the process and display an appreciation of the ethical dimensions of the project.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed:

8.3.1. An ability to work and learn autonomously, to implement and plan their own learning and make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources to improve personal and professional practice.

8.3.2. An ability to develop empathic ethnographic inquiries and reflective practices.

8.3.3. An ability to represent the testing, analysis and critical appraisal of complex design proposals and their resolution to a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences.

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed:

8.4.1. An ability to self-evaluate and reflect on own values and behaviours in order to improve personal and/or professional practice.

8.4.2. An ability to use visual, verbal and written communication and appropriate media, including: sketching, scenario modelling and digital presentation techniques.

8.4.3. An ability to critically evaluate the ethical implications of individual and group work and proactively formulate solutions.

8.4.4. An ability to make a contribution to the advancement of professional knowledge.

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed:

8.5.1. An ability to engage with interdisciplinary team work and develop interpersonal skills to proactively formulate solutions.

8.5.2. An ability to formulate theoretical principles for a new approach to design for the transition to low carbon, high well-being and resilient economies and communities.

8.5.3. An ability to engage in co-creative participatory practices for new approaches to the ecological design process that include a range of stakeholders in the full lifecycle of projects.

8.5.4. An ability to critique and build alternative strategies that address a particular context, organisation or community.

8. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

Qualification(s) required for entry to the MA	Comments
BA/BSc (Honours) Degree	A first degree in design related subjects, or social or natural sciences. Where the first degree is not design-related, a portfolio of work will be required in support of the application or experience that is equivalent.
Other non-standard awards or experience	A willingness to play a part in the interrogating and co-creating of Ecological Design Thinking as an evolving discipline. Candidates will be considered with appropriate APCL and APEL subject to interview.
Interview requirements	All applicants are required to attend an interview, either at the college, or by Skype.
IELTS or equivalent to an average score of 6.5	All overseas students requiring a Tier 4 visa who normally do not have an undergraduate degree awarded in English.
Independent Safeguarding Agency (ISA) or Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) clearance required.	Not required.

Candidates who declare a disability upon admission will be referred to disability support for assessment and further recommendations regarding study support.

9. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

PGCert Ecological Design Thinking: successful completion of modules:

- SCH5449 Design and Ecology (30 credits) +
- SCH5450 Design and Society (30 credits).

PGDip Ecological Design Thinking: successful completion of modules:

- SCH5449 Design and Ecology (30 credits) +
- SCH5450 Design and Society (30 credits) +
- SCH5451 Design and Place (30 credits) +
- SCH5452 Design in Practice (30 credits).

MA Ecological Design Thinking: successful completion of modules:

- SCH5449 Design and Ecology (30 credits) +
- SCH5450 Design and Society (30 credits) +
- SCH5451 Design and Place (30 credits) +
- SCH5452 Design in Practice (30 credits) +
- SCH5453 Major Project/Dissertation (60 credits).

10. Non Standard Regulations None

11. Transitional Arrangements

Students from 2019/2020 cohort who are unable to complete successfully any modules from January to August 2020 will be able (subject to all normal regulations) transition to 2021 in the following manner:

2019/20 Cohort modules	2020/21 onwards
SCH5443 Transforming the story of place	SCH5451 Design and Place
SCH5444 Transformation in action	SCH5452 Design in Practice
SCH5445 Dissertation	Major project/Dissertation

Appendices:

- **Programme Specification Mapping (PGT)**

Appendix 1

Programme Specification Mapping: module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes

Module	Credits	Core or elective C - E	Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																				Compensation Y - N	Assessment element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 – practical
			8.1 Knowledge & understanding				8.2 Cognitive & intellectual skills				8.3 Key & transferable skills			8.4 Employment related skills				8.5 Practical skills						
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
SCH5449	30	C	X				X				X			X	X							N	C1 100%	
SCH5450	30	C		X			X	X				X			X			X	X			N	C1 100%	
SCH5451	30	C		X	X				X		X	X		X		X		X	X			N	C1 100%	
SCH5452	30	C	X	X			X	X	X		X	X				X			X	X		N	C1 100%	
SCH5453	60	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X			X	X	N	C1 100%	
Confirmed Award LOs			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			