UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

PROGRAMME TITLE: PgD/MSc in Housing P/T (C976UJ)

PLEASE NOTE. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he or she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content and the learning, teaching and assessment methods of each module can be found at www.engineering.ulster.ac.uk and in the programme handbook.

1. AWARDING INSTITUTION/BODY: UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER
2. TEACHING INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER
3. LOCATION: Jordanstown Campus
4. PROGRAMME ACCREDITED BY: Chartered Institute of Housing
5. FINAL AWARD: PG Diploma in Housing
6. MODE OF ATTENDANCE: Part-time
7. SPECIALISMS: None
8. UCAS CODE: 
9. QAA SUBJECT UNIT: Building and Surveying

10. EDUCATIONAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

Programme Aim:

The aim of the programme is to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills, which enable an analysis of people and their homes in the context of (or in relation to) social need, social and economic change and policy frameworks.

- To provide an opportunity for graduates and professionals to acquire knowledge housing management and to develop skills appropriate to its practice.
- To promote their professional development through reading for a higher degree in housing and to provide an advanced educational basis for further qualifications.
- To produce graduates with an extended capability to apply knowledge of skills in identifying, developing, analyzing and appraising solutions to a range of housing problems.
- To produce graduates with an increased capacity for understanding theoretical concepts and contemporary issues of various aspects of housing.
- To enable graduates to apply the skills and knowledge acquired in the programme in a mature professional manner to a field of work appropriate to their chosen career.
- To produce graduates with a suitable base for further post-graduate research and development, thus enabling the housing manager to compete at the highest levels of management with other professionals in both the public and private sector arenas.
- To produce graduates with an awareness of the importance of life-long learning in the future development of their chosen career.

The additional aims of the MSc are:

- To produce graduates who have experience of a supervised independent investigation in an area related to housing, using relevant research methodology.
- To enable the graduate to carry out a comprehensive research proposal and report their findings.
11. **MAIN LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The programme provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning.

11K **SUBJECT RELATED QUALITIES**

K1 The current issues facing social housing organisations with detailed independent and comparative analysis of voluntary and public service housing provision.

K2 Theoretical perspectives and practical insights into the importance of and role played by housing professionals within their organisations and in relation to their inputs in policy making and implementation.

K3 The theory of strategic management as applied to the housing field.

K4 The stages and process involved in the development of social housing projects and a considered understanding of the role the professionals involved in the development and planning processes.

K5 Theoretical perspectives, conceptual frameworks and policy imperatives for housing research and the appropriate application of these methodologies into workplace and academic study in housing.

K6 The financing of housing organisations and the application and influences of social, economic and political conditions and imperatives on funding streams.

**Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Knowledge and understanding of the subject are acquired mainly through lectures, seminars, directed reading, directed reading, case studies, field trips, guest speakers, group based projects, negotiated learning, e-learning, work based learning and extended individual research.

**Assessment Methods:**

Assessment of the above is principally through formal closed book examinations, class tests and coursework assignments consisting of essays, individual and group exercises, a major individual project and oral presentations, study tours.

11I **INTELLECTUAL QUALITIES**

I1 Ability to analyse and solve problems in housing management using appropriate methods and techniques.

I2 Integrate data and information for a variety of sources.

I3 Apply a variety of IT packages, assemble and evaluate information from a range of sources.

I4 Formulate alternative solutions for resolving problems and responding to issues. Judge and appraise different outcomes.

I5 Ability to appraise those institutions who are responsible for housing provision and examine the policy context within which they currently operate with appreciation for issues including: the relation between central and local government, tiers of governance, statutory requirements and local level policy.

I6 Ability to evaluate comparative systems of housing provision and consider their relevance and application in local housing environments.

I7 Appreciate how housing organisations deliver and manage their services and compare various approaches to delivering and organising services.

**Learning and Teaching Methods:**

These qualities are developed through seminar classes/tutorials, coursework assignments, individual and group work, study tours and projects.

**Assessment Methods:**

The above are assessed through formal examinations, coursework assignments, research and project dissertation.
### 11P PROFESSIONAL / PRACTICAL SKILLS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>Ability to use appropriate methods to analyse, evaluate and develop appropriate solutions in housing management.</td>
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<tr>
<td>P2</td>
<td>Prepare and interpret reports on areas of housing and related topics</td>
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<td>P3</td>
<td>Source, critically review and use research material</td>
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<td>P4*</td>
<td>Plan and execute a significant programme of research and produce a research dissertation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>P5</td>
<td>have the ability to think independently, solve problems and apply professional knowledge in the area of housing management.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* MSc only

**Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Professional and practical skills are primarily acquired and developed through coursework assignments including, problem solving assignments and work undertaken individually or in small groups which is supplemented by class tutorials and discussion groups.

**Assessment Methods:**

Assessment of the above skills is through coursework assignments, class exercises and dissertation.

### 11T TRANSFERABLE/KEY SKILLS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>Ability to communicate effectively with housing professionals, other stakeholders and to society at large;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2</td>
<td>Exercise informed judgment across a range of issues and functions;</td>
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<td>T3</td>
<td>Manipulate, source and present data using a range of methods;</td>
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<td>T4</td>
<td>Present quantitative and qualitative information, together with analysis, argument and commentary, in a form appropriate to the intended audience, including appropriate acknowledgement and referencing of sources;</td>
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<td>T5</td>
<td>Develop the faculty for independent learning, open-mindedness and critical inquiry.</td>
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<td>T6</td>
<td>Manage time and resources effectively</td>
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<td>T7</td>
<td>Function as a member of, and as a leader of, a team.</td>
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<td>T8</td>
<td>Use information technology to access and analyse information from a wide variety of sources</td>
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</table>

**Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Transferable and key skills are delivered throughout the course through lectures and coursework assignments.

**Assessment Methods:**

The above skills are assessed through assignments and a dissertation along with observation of team working and oral presentations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOP520J1</td>
<td>Housing Management</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLD805J1</td>
<td>Property Investment and Development</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP809J2</td>
<td>Innovations in Housing</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP521J2</td>
<td>Housing Finance and Development</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP322J1</td>
<td>Housing Practice</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLD808J1</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP839J2</td>
<td>Strategic Management</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP840J2</td>
<td>Housing Organisations and Processes</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP850J4</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUTCOMES: K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, I1, I2, I3, I4, I5, I6, I7, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8
12 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD

- The Post Graduate Diploma is a part time programme of two years duration with the option of completing a Masters by dissertation. Years 1, 2 each are comprised of 4 modules totaling 60 credit points studied over 2 semesters. The M Sc comprises 60 credit points and can be taken over two years duration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code &amp; Title</th>
<th>Credit Level</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
<th>Module Status</th>
<th>Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOP520J1 Housing Management</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLD805J1 Property Investment and Development</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP809J2 Innovations in Housing</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>M</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP322J1 Housing Practice</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLD808J1 Research</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP839J2 Strategic Management</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP840J2 Housing Organisations and Processes</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**M Sc**
Year 3 and 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code &amp; Title</th>
<th>Credit Level</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
<th>Module Status</th>
<th>Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOP850J4 Dissertation</td>
<td>M2</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13 SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR LEARNING

Students and their learning are supported in a number of ways:

- A comprehensive induction for new students regardless of entry level.
- Programme handbook and module booklets.
- Access for students to the Course Director and academic staff.
- Student representation on the course committee.
- Opportunity to address general programme concerns through the student/staff consultative committee.
- Personal studies advisors allocated to each student.
- Opportunity for feedback on academic progress at the end of each semester.
- Guidance and information on safety-related matters.
- Facilities and assistance offered by the Learning Resources Centre (Library) and computer services (ISD).
- Student e-mail accounts and full access to the Internet
- Intranet with a wide range of software, tutorials and information resources (VIBEL – Virtual Built Environment Library).
- Preparation for placement and help in finding placement opportunities.
- Academic staff visit students on placement.
- Department of Student Affairs provides services in the fields of accommodation, health, counselling & guidance, careers, childcare, finance & special needs.
- The Careers Service, in conjunction with programme teams, provides careers advice and the preparation for Industrial Placement.
- University has protocols for assessment of students with disabilities.
- Student membership and participation in Professional bodies is encouraged.
- Students Union, in conjunction with the International Office, runs an orientation course for overseas students.

14 CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

Applicants must satisfy the University’s general entry requirements and specific requirements for admission to the course detailed below.

Applicants should normally possess:

- An honours degree from a recognized institution

- Or an equivalent qualification plus the graduate foundation course recognised by the Chartered Institute of Housing.

Other qualifications deemed by the Senate of the University of Ulster to be equivalent may be considered. It is part of the philosophy of the University to give accreditation for prior learning and to encourage flexibility where students transfer between institutions during course for occupational or other reasons.
The following mechanisms are used:

**Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning, assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards:**
- Formal student feedback is sought on the content and delivery of each module via a module evaluation questionnaire, a free response method or a module forum.
- Upon completion the module team reviews each module. Statistical information, student feedback, content, delivery, assessment methods, resources and proposed enhancements are considered.
- Periodic validation involving external industrial and academic panel.
- The programme is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Housing.
- Annual Subject Monitoring, including views of External Examiner and module evaluation.
- Staff teaching performance is monitored annually through student questionnaires. In addition, staff members participate in peer observation of their teaching. Staff appraisal is carried out on a 2-year cycle with attention given to the development needs of the individual staff member.

**Committees with responsibilities for monitoring and evaluating quality:**
- Regular student-staff consultative meetings provide the means of highlighting any difficulties, relating to the programme.
- Course Committees.
- Board of Examiners.
- School Board.
- At school, faculty and University levels there are active Learning and Teaching, and Quality Assurance and Enhancement (QAEC) Committees responsible for co-ordinating and monitoring developments and initiatives relating to innovative methods for delivery, technology mediated learning, as well as general resource issues. In addition, QAEC is responsible for regulating faculty codes of practice relating to programme management and delivery.

**Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of their learning experience:**
- Student-Staff Consultative Committee.
- Students are given opportunity to be represented at course committee, School and Faculty board.
- Module evaluation questionnaires/module forum/module free response.
- Placement reports.

**Staff development includes:**
- Updating in the subject through research and scholarly activities
- The University has an active Staff Development Unit providing specific training/development for staff. Specifically, all new staff members (opportunity is also provided for existing staff) have to pursue a formal teaching qualification (Postgraduate Certificate) and are encouraged to apply for membership of the Higher Education Academy (HEA).
- Consultancy.
### REGULATION OF STANDARDS

**Assessment Rules:**

**Award of PG Certificate**  Candidates who have successfully completed four modules at M level (pass mark is 50%)

**Award of PG Diploma**  Candidates who have successfully completed eight taught modules at M level (pass mark is 50%). The Board of Examiners may recommend a Pass with Commendation to a candidate who has gained an overall pass mark at least 60%.

**External Examiners**  One External Examiners are appointed for the programme, to moderate the assessment process, ensure appropriate standards of final awards and ensure that accuracy and consistency of assessment have been applied.  Detailed duties are as specified in the current University of Ulster ‘handbook’ for External Examiners (consistent with HESA standards).
17. INDICATORS OF QUALITY RELATING TO LEARNING AND TEACHING

- Teaching staff, within the faculty are encouraged to become accredited members of the Higher Education academy (HEA). To date members have fulfilled the requirements through completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in University Teaching (PGCHEP).
- As well as teaching, most staff, are actively engaged in research that informs their teaching. In addition, most have substantial industrial experience prior to joining the University. A significant number are full members of appropriate professional bodies.
- 2 staff members of the school have been awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award from the University.
- In 1998 the HEFCE/Quality Assurance Agency awarded a score of 21 out of a possible 24 (Building).
- In the 2002 Research Assessment Exercise staff teaching on the programme contributed to Unit 33 “Built Environment” gaining a score of 5.
- Graduates from the programme have had excellent employment histories
- The programme is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Housing.
- Annual Subject Monitoring.
- Periodic Subject Validation.