

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

BA (Honours) Furniture: Design and Make

Managed by the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

delivered by City of Oxford College part of Activate Learning

Date approved:	December 2015
Applies to students commencing study in:	09/2021

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Activate Learning - City of Oxford College, Oxpens Road, Oxford OX1 1SA
Language of study:	English
Final award/s:	BA (Hons) Furniture Design and Make
Programme title:	Furniture Design and Make
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	Ordinary degree in Furniture Design and Make
Brookes course code:	BAH-FDM
UCAS code:	W260
JACS code:	
HECoS code:	
Mode of delivery: (Mode of study is given in brackets)	**Face to face/on-campus (full-time) **Face to face/on-campus (part-time)
Duration of study:	Typically Full-time 2 years and Part-time 3 years
Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	QAA Subject benchmark statement: Art and Design 2019
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	N/A
Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

The BA (Hons) Furniture Design and Make is designed to prepare students for a career as furniture designers and makers and recognises the need for an inter-disciplinary approach to help maximise future employment potential. The programme provides an opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding of what it means to work within furniture related organisations and encourages students to develop interest in specific learning opportunities.

Learning is supported through close contact with a range of furniture specialist tutors with access to dedicated facilities and provides an opportunity for personally- focused learning.

Students will develop critical thinking and practical skills, as well as professional and research skills. Alongside the academic study in the programme students will develop the communication skills that will equip them to respond to changing conditions, to develop an ability to work in different environments and to seek out diverse opportunities within the furniture industries.

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

The aim of the programme is to ensure that students are competent individuals with proficient knowledge in the discipline and professional skills required for a career within furniture design and make. It specifically aims:

- To enable students with a Foundation Degree in Furniture Design and Make or equivalent the opportunity to further extend, consolidate and apply specialist skills and knowledge in order to achieve an honours degree.
- To support students to develop a professional practice which uses appropriate research methodologies and technologies and is informed by conventions and cultural debates within contemporary furniture practice.
- To produce graduates who are able to respond creatively to problems and demonstrate qualities such as flexibility and adaptability, which will enable them to develop and sustain a career in the furniture design and make field, or go on to post graduate study.
- To encourage students to engage with wider social issues such as diversity, equality and the business environment in relation to furniture design and make.

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

- Analyse and evaluate theoretical concepts and technical knowledge to respond effectively to both self-initiated and industry linked (live) design briefs.
- Develop effective professional communication strategies using appropriate visual, oral and three dimensional methodologies in response to both self-initiated and industry linked (live) design briefs.
- Demonstrate increasingly autonomous professional practice of furniture making in response to both self-initiated and industry linked (live) design briefs.

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

- Critically analyse and evaluate independently generated primary and secondary research in order to construct and sustain an argument in response to a self-negotiated research project.
- Critically analyse research to underpin practice within the furniture design and make sector.

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

- Critically examine their individual work and that of other practitioners to become increasingly autonomous.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively both independently and collaboratively within a professional context when responding to industry linked projects.

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

- Critically evaluate a wide range of appropriate source materials through relevant scholarly and professional databases, libraries, and other resources to inform furniture design and make activities.
- Demonstrate effective communication using a range of technologies, appropriate protocols and channels with a wide range of audiences.

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

- Demonstrate a broad awareness of wider social issues such as diversity, equality and the business environment in relation to furniture design and make practice.
- Justify the cultural framework and context of furniture design and make practice and the importance of issues of sustainability, community and society both locally and globally.

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
ARTD601 5	Professional Design and Make	30	6	Compulsory	100% CW
ARTD601 7	Professional Development	30	6	Compulsory	100% CW
ARTD601 6	Personal Project: Written	30	6	Compulsory	100% CW
ARTD601 8	Personal Project: Design and Make	30	6	Compulsory	100% CW

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

240 credits at level 4 and 5 are provided by APL from the Oxford Brookes Foundation Degree in Furniture Design and Make (or recognised equivalent qualification).

To obtain a BA Honours Degree a student must within 3 years, pass modules totalling 120 credits at level 6.

To obtain a BA Ordinary a student must, within 3 years pass modules totalling 60 credits at level 6 if progressing from an Oxford Brookes programme or 90 credits if progressing from a programme at another university.

The programme is designed to be completed in a minimum of one academic year when taken in the full time mode of study and a minimum of two years when taken in the part time mode of study.

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

There are no specific areas of the programme that are necessary for professional accreditation.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

The BA (Hons) Furniture Design and Make programme provides opportunities for students to achieve the learning outcomes using a range of different learning experiences. Students continue to develop knowledge, skills and confidence in their capabilities throughout the year. The module assessments have been designed to assist in the building of skills offering formative feedback before summative assignments. There will be a schedule for each student that provides the opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The module assignments will require students to demonstrate a thorough grasp of the knowledge which is essential in order to practice safely and develop competence.

Throughout the course a range of teaching and learning strategies are used. The strategies aim to help students think, reflect, evaluate and consider the impact of yourself and others in a broader context.

Throughout the programme, teaching and learning strategies adopted by tutors will acknowledge and encourage a range of learning styles. The programme aims to provide a balance between provision of information and opportunities to assimilate actively, apply, question, debate and reflect critically. Teaching and learning strategies will:

- Encourage students to engage in critical analysis of concepts, theories and practice to consolidate making and thinking
- Give students the opportunity to acquire practical experience and skills in a range of activities relevant to furniture design and make.
- Encourage students to engage in critical evaluation of their own work and performance as well as, the work and well-being of others.

Students will be able to enjoy the advantages of working and learning in a creative Design Studio

environment together with their peers. This provides the opportunity to pool experiences, research and ideas; to brainstorm on projects together; give and receive encouragement and advice; develop a group ethos and esprit-de-corps and generally enjoy the companionship of working alongside each other on common goals. The Design studio provides an opportunity for students to explore and develop their ability to use computers as an appropriate tool within the context of the design process and as a means of establishing effective communications with a diverse range of professionals.

Students will have the opportunity to use their own dedicated workbench and access to the Wood machine and veneering workshops to develop their learning through three dimensional exploration, testing, evaluation of their design proposals and subsequently making high quality practical outcomes. Students will be supported during the making stage of the projects through practical guidance by teachers and supervision in the workshops by dedicated workshop supervisors. Students of the FdA share the same workshops with final year BA students allowing opportunities for shared peer learning and collaboration.

Introductory lectures will typically introduce projects concentrating on learning outcomes and assessment requirements. Issues relating to Workload and Attendance will be explained and related to staff expectations and student aspirations.

Individual and group tutorials monitor the progress of student's project work and consider the direction of further work. Tutorials will ensure that work progresses evenly, that the quality and quantity of work is appropriate and that the key learning objectives of the module are met. Students will develop their learning, analytical skills and creative abilities by contributing to the discussion of their peers project work. Students will be constantly encouraged to explore their creative potential and natural curiosity as key methods of developing their learning. Students will be helped and encouraged to maximise their learning during their self-directed study time.

From the very outset of the course students will be given access to the two virtual learning environments at both City of Oxford College and Oxford Brookes. The Induction period and information provided to students will give a clear outline about the IT facilities, how to access them, and using them to their full potential.

The module assessments have been designed to assist in the building of skills offering formative before summative assignments. There will be a schedule for each student that provides the opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The module assignments prior to practice will require students to demonstrate a thorough grasp of the knowledge which is essential to practice safely and develop competence. The assessments are designed to demonstrate attainment of the learning outcomes to level 5 of the FHEQ in line with the QAA Foundation Degree qualification benchmark.

Formative assessments and feedback will take place on a number of occasions throughout a modules' duration. This can take place formally as written feed-forward (guidance as to how they would be able to improve their work on subsequent sections of the project or module) as well as orally in tutorials.

Summative assessments will take place at the end of each project within a module. Written feedback on this project will be given in relation to the student's performance in overall terms and within the context of each assessment category. The context of the student's performance across all module components in relation to the learning outcomes will also be summarised.

The Assessment Weighting for each project will be communicated to students in the course handbook. The project briefs will include copies of the actual assessment sheets which detail the range of assessment criteria and the comparative weighting of each assessment category.

Module Feedback Sessions for both Formative and Summative Assessments will take place within three weeks of an assessment taking place. Students will be given general oral feedback in relation to the overall performance of the group and specific written feedback relating to their individual performance.

The table below gives an indication of how the teaching and learning experiences enable the students to meet the programme learning outcomes and develop the graduate attributes:

Graduate Attribute	Teaching and Learning methods
Academic literacy	<p>Academic literacy is developed throughout the programme To underpin employability, students develop skills of critical thinking, the ability to analyse and evaluate practical and theoretical material. Students also extend their practical skills through the application of specialist knowledge and techniques within a furniture design and make environment.</p> <p>Industry linked projects with live briefs develop students understanding of and how to behave in the professional landscape of the furniture industry. This is complimented by guest lectures, visits and a study tour.</p>
Research literacy	<p>Students have an opportunity to develop and apply research skills throughout the programme. Students are encouraged to engage with key debates relevant to contemporary furniture practice in both practical and written forms of their work. The application of research skills is required to complete most of the module assessments.</p> <p>Module ARTD6016 engages the students in a small-scale personal research project. Conclusions made through a written research paper will inform a personal project brief and proposals.</p>
Critical Self-awareness and Personal Literacy	<p>Opportunities are provided throughout the programme for students to engage in processes of evaluation and critical assessment of their own work and that of others. Design and make projects are facilitated through small group tutorials providing opportunities for critical feedback and peer assessment. A personal design and make project ARTD6018 is designed to allow students to demonstrate autonomy and organisation in an independent project.</p>
Digital and Information Literacy	<p>It is expected that students will make use of digital technology to produce high quality presentation and technical drawings of design and make project work. Module ARTD6017 is concerned with self and product promotion, students will be encouraged to engage with appropriate technology to both research and create materials eg. websites, blogs, digital portfolios.</p> <p>On line resources are provide through ALO. The City of Oxford College VLE also provides support with online resources and is the portal for submission of written assignments.</p>
Active Citizenship	<p>The BA (Hons) Furniture Design and Make programme is clear about the importance of engendering the concepts of active citizenship particularly as part of the practical modules.</p> <p>Guest lectures, visits and live projects promote an awareness of diverse perspectives, cultures and values.</p>

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have completed an appropriate Programme to be eligible to apply for the final year entry to the BA (Hons) Furniture Design and Make. These include:

- A Foundation Degree in Furniture Design and Make awarded by Oxford Brookes University, successfully gaining 240 credits and usually a 55% grade average
- A Foundation degree in Furniture and related disciplines successfully gaining 240 credits and usually a 55% grade average, subject to individual assessment of credit by Oxford Brookes University.
- A Higher National Diploma in Furniture and related disciplines, successfully gaining 240 credits with Merit Profile at level 5, QAA Benchmarks, subject to individual assessment of credit by Oxford Brookes University.

English language requirements

Applicants whose first language is not English, must also demonstrate that their level of English is acceptable by achieving a score in a recognised test such as:

- British Council IELTS: normally minimum level 6.0 overall with a minimum of 6.0 in the reading and writing components and 5.5 for speaking and listening.

In exceptional circumstances direct entry to the final year BA top up may be considered for applicants who do not meet the academic entry requirements if they are able to demonstrate a significant amount of relevant experience in the industry. Applicants who do not meet the academic entry requirements would be expected to demonstrate evidence of an ability to succeed on the programme particularly with reference to the academic writing. Normally a minimum of

- the equivalent of ten years' full-time relevant work experience in an appropriate workplace setting
- evidence of ability to study at academic level 6
- a minimum of one A-level at grade C plus the equivalent of GCSE passes at C grade or above in Mathematics and English Language - or an equivalent in recognised vocationally related qualifications

6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

Activate Learning will confirm that DBS checks have been carried out where students are working with young people and/or vulnerable adults. It will be the responsibility of the student to arrange DBS checks.

6.3 ADDITIONAL COSTS

There are a number of additional costs which students need to be aware of in preparing for and studying on, the foundation degree

Prior to starting the programme	Cost
Tools	£250-£500
Drawing Equipment	£40
Stationery/sketchbooks	£50
PPE	£15-£50

BA	Cost
Materials fee: Consumables, exhibitions	£50
Major design and make x 2	£200-£500 each
Batch production design and make	£25

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

The Degree in Furniture Design and Make will equip students with the theoretical understanding and the practical expertise needed to undertake work in a variety of roles within the field of furniture design and make.

The course will emphasise the importance of understanding good business practice and thus widen their employability. The programme includes modules which cover a wide range of organisations and opportunities within the community. This aims to widen the students experience and give an insight into other organisations thus providing links for students who may wish to work in the community in roles linked to furniture design and make.

Graduates have found employment in a variety of roles within the furniture industry. Typically they find employment as furniture makers, furniture designers/CAD technicians before moving into management positions and self-employment as designer-makers.

There has been regular progression from the BA (Hons) into further academic study at Masters level supported by bursaries from the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers (WCFM) or Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (specifically at the RCA). Students have also progressed onto post graduate teacher training programmes.

Updated June 2020

An incubation unit providing supported graduate opportunities has been established through direct partnership with Sylva at their wood centre in south Oxfordshire.

Students studying on the BA (Hons) Furniture Design and Make have a number of possibilities to link with employers, examples include:

Guest speakers

A programme of 3-4 speakers is established each academic year aiming to bring currency to the programme and to illustrate the diversity of opportunities within the furniture industry. Examples of speakers who have previously contributed includes;

Matthew Burt Furniture designer-maker
Sebastian Cox Furniture designer-maker
Jane Cleal Furniture designer-maker
William Garvey (Robin Dietch) Commercial workshop
Barry Jenkins Furniture designer
Philip Koomen Furniture designer-maker
Opus Magnum (Matthew Kelley) Commercial workshop
Gareth Neal Furniture designer-maker
Simon Pengelly Furniture designer
James Ryan/Edward Barnsley Workshop, Furniture designer-maker
Andrea Stemmer Furniture designer

Visits/Study tour

A range of regular integrated visits to employers (with no additional costs to students) include;

Matthew Burt, Furniture designer-maker
William Garvey Furniture Makers, Commercial workshop
Halstock Cabinet Makers, Commercial workshop
John Makepeace, Furniture designer-maker
Modus, Furniture manufacturer
Waywood, Furniture designer-maker

Live projects

Gordon Russell brief sponsored by Hands and WCFM. Formative tutorial feedback by Hands designers and summative feedback by a panel of industry judges. ARTD6015
Batch production of small craft objects for Oxford old fire station gallery/shop ARTD6017

Offers of work experience/internship (prior to, during or on completion of the programme)

Employers that regularly offer work experience include;

Philip Koomen, Oxon
Opus Magnum, London
Halstock Cabinet Makers, Dorset
Doig Design, Oxon
Silver Lining, Cheshire