RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

COURSE AIMS

The aim of the course is to enable students to gain proficiency in academic skills needed for academic and professional discourse within their professional disciplines and in doing so enable the students to:

- evaluate types of knowledge and explanations within the built environment management disciplines;
- selectively apply different methods and procedures of inquiry to solve problems in the field of study;
- draw on appropriate ethical values and approaches to conducting research;
- develop appropriate processes of gathering information and independently validate the sources of information, evaluate and manage the information;
- develop and communicate ideas and opinions in a systematic, logical manner using appropriate academic and professional discourse;
- enable students to think critically through the development of logical arguments, reading and comprehending material with advanced critical literacy and applying imaginative responses.

COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Read and comprehend material with advanced critical literacy;
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically, through the development of logical arguments;
- Develop a proposal that forms the basis of academic / professional discourse;
- Structure an abstract problem to be addressed by an evidence based and theory driven argument;
- Design a substantiated (evidence and theory) logical argument;
- Use information retrieval skills and map acquired knowledge on a given body of knowledge;
• Plan an executable synthesis of qualitative and quantitative data;
• Accept and engage with a multiplicity of ‘right’ answers;
• Accurately self-evaluate to identify and address learning needs;
• Interact effectively in a learning group;
• Utilise effective professional and academic communication;
• Apply imaginative responses to built environment problems.

COURSE CONTENTS

Introduction to groups, group formation and group roles, group functioning, academic literacy, academic reading, academic ethics, project management skills to manage group assignments, library skills and academic information search tactics, academic writing, truth logic and building of arguments, identification and structuring of problems, academic communication and presentation skills, understanding audience, understanding customer need /briefing, scope management.