Programme Specification for BA (Honours) Housing Studies 2012/2013

Teaching Institution:

London South Bank University

Accredited by:

Chartered Institute of Housing

Faculty of origin:

AHS

Highest Award within the Programme:

BA (Honours) Housing Studies

Other Awards within the Programme:

BA/Cert HE/Dip HE

Reference Points:

Internal:

- Academic Strategy
- Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes
- Handbook on Quality Management & Enhancement
- Corporate Plan 2009-12
- AHS Teaching & Learning Strategy 2009-12
- AHS Executive Business Plan 2010-11

External:

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications QAA
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptors
- CIH Expectations for Corporate Membership; Guidance for Universities and Colleges 2006.

Rationale & Aims:

This programme is intended for housing professionals

seeking a relevant professional qualification and

non-housing professionals seeking an entry into the

Housing profession. The courses within the programme

reflect the requirements of the Chartered Institute of
Housing (CIH) in relation to current issues in housing policy
and practice which will enable students to achieve Associate
or Corporate Membership of the CIH. Students can take the
Degree on a full-time or part-time basis but the HNC is
part-time only. Transfer between modes of the course is
possible at different points in the programme.

The aims of the programme are: to provide an academically based and intellectually demanding programme of study within the housing discipline. This will cover key aspects of housing policy and practice and allow students to gain knowledge and skills relevant to the pursuit of a career in housing as well as having broader application. In line with the requirements of the CIH, students who complete the programmes will have acquired both skills and an understanding of housing and society, and of the policy and economic context in which the new housing professional operates. Additionally students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of issues related to customer service, managing staff and collaborative working.

Both part-time and full-time modes of the course are recognised by the Chartered Institute of Housing. In order to become a corporate member of the CIH students need in addition to the BA, to complete and pass APEX, the CIH professional experience requirement. A fee is charged for this. Within the part-time programme the HNC has a dual role,

to provide an introduction to the disciplines of housing and related social science, underpinned by the disciplines of law and management. This is a free-standing award, recognised as the first stage of the CIH Professional Qualification aimed at recent entrants to the housing profession.

Programme Outcomes Programme outcomes

A. Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

Higher National Certificate

- A1. contrasting approaches and perspectives on housing, and their implications for understanding housing provision
- A2. the current and future development of the housing system at a specific and detailed level and its implications for the housing profession;
- A3 the imperative to deliver modern public services, particularly within housing and regeneration;
- A4 the importance of housing as a basic need of communities and how its provision is affected by a wide range of social, economic and political influences

And additionally for the BA (Hons)

- A5 neighbourhood management of housing and other related services and how this may impact upon service delivery;
- A6 understand how to apply remedies for housing within the legal and policy framework;
- A7 the usefulness of learning from alternative approaches to housing policy and practice from other countries and to applying lessons learned to the UK;

Teaching and learning strategy

Students are required to attend a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student role-plays and field study visits. Modules at all Levels require the development of these learning outcomes via self-directed study.

Throughout the course, students have module guides relevant to each module of study, giving additional reading material which students are encouraged to use for private study to consolidate the formal learning process, and both to broaden and deepen their knowledge and understanding in the subject area. Students are encouraged to become student members of the Chartered Institute of Housing Institute, and to use the library and resources available.

Field trips are an integral part of the course and allow students to appreciate and value learning that takes place outside of a normal classroom environment.

Assessment

Assessment of the knowledge base is through a combination of online examinations, problem solving exercises, oral presentations, student-led seminars and individual and group projects and essay and project based coursework.

- B. Students should be able to develop their intellectual skills in Housing Studies such that they are able to: Higher National Certificate
- B1. understand and appreciate the nature of the housing system in relation to the current political, economic and social processes and issues;
- B2. appreciate the need for housing managers to work with other professionals and be able to contribute to the planning and management of inter-disciplinary teams.

And additionally for the BA (Hons)

- B3. demonstrate appropriate skills in written, oral and graphical communication; in teamwork and presentation; and in research methods and methodology appropriate for the presentation of an undergraduate dissertation.
- C. Students should be able to develop practical skills in Housing Studies suchthat they are able to: Higher National Certificate
- C1. have the skill and technical expertise necessary for the practice of housingmanagement.
- C2. interpret and be able to contribute to the building development process.

- C3. contribute to decisions concerning building and housing finance.
- C4. apply and be able to react successfully to the use of commercial criteria inrelation to the work of the housing manager.

And additionally for the BA (Hons)

- C5. demonstrate analytical skills in management and policy analysis relevant to a range of housing agencies;
- C6. demonstrate academic competence and technical expertise appropriate to, and necessary for, the practice of the housing profession, including a thorough and critical knowledge of legal rights and obligations in areas of housing practice.
- D. Students will acquire and develop transferable skills such that they are able to:

Higher National Certificate

- D1. exhibit a degree of flexibility in being able to perform a range of tasks for a range of different types of housing organisations.
- D2. demonstrate competence in the interpersonal and other communication skills as detailed in the Edexcel Common Skills.

And additionally for the BA (Hons)

- D3. demonstrate problem solving skills and be able to identify, specify and assess changing policy and practice in housing.
- D4. demonstrate a critical awareness of the importance of equal opportunities issues within the context of the housing profession and the UK housing system.
- D5 demonstrate an ability to direct, monitor and assess their own learning and to take on the responsibility for the student's own learning.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The course structure is based on comparability between modules in terms of student study time, contact and access to staff resources. However, within each module the allocation of time between different teaching and learning methods varies according to the mix which is most appropriate to the subject matter. The use of different teaching methods is also important to maintain variety and stimulus for students throughout the day.

The course is designed to emphasise opportunities for students to initiate and progress their own work, drawing on their work experience (where held) and previous academic work, in small group teaching, seminars, workshops, field-work, case study analysis and group projects. In the early parts of the course there is a predominance of teaching by formal lectures. This then gives way to a progressively larger proportion of student contact hours taking the form of seminar, project, workshop and other less formal and more participatory methods.

Lectures are devoted to an exposition of a topic in order to provide a firm basis for further student study. More than one member of staff is usually involved in the module lecture programme, whether to extend the range of topics, or to introduce variety, or to present contrasting perspectives. Guest lecturers augment the teaching of specific subject areas with their specialist knowledge and practical expertise.

Seminars are largely student-led, and designed to allow students to present papers and discuss their findings, with staff guidance.

Tutorials are used as the point when individuals or small groups of students need guidance on term papers, their research project and specialist options.

Workshops are designed to pool knowledge and experience already gained. Projects are used when students need to work in groups to acquire skills and experience in specific tasks and for the development of specific management skills.

Use of Blended Learning which makes full use of the University Blackboard Learning System to access, search for information and data, as well as and requiring participation in Discussion Boards. On-line tutorials will enable enhanced skills development in self managed scholarly activity and support more traditional teaching methods.

Finally, **field visits**, and block days will be used to enable students to relate theory to practice. There will be day study visits in London/the South East as part of certain Modules; a 2-3 day residential study visit outside London and the South East and a residential week abroad as the basis of the European Study Visit module.

In accordance with the University guidelines on course structure and block timetables within a semester framework, each module will be taught in weekly blocks of the appropriate contact time. These will be supported by a period of student library/research time, and of private student study as indicated in the module statements. This will be spread over two fifteen week semesters. The opportunity for students to use and manage their own personal study time is central to a course that is assessed predominantly by continuous assessment.

Entry Requirements

In order to be considered for entry to the programme applicants will be required to have the following qualifications:-

BA (Hons): Year 1, full and part timeStudents taking the HNC must be currently employed within a housing organisation, or undertaking a training placement e.g Path National, or engaged in housing related voluntary work.

- (i) 5 GCSEs including English and Maths, plus 3 C's at A Level or their equivalent (240 UCAS points)
- (ii) BTEC National Diploma (Merit, merit, merit)
- (iii) Mature students (over 21) without the above may be admitted on the basis of life and work experiences.
- (iv) Successful completion of an access course or appropriate foundation year

BA (Hons): Year 2 entry, full and part-time

BTEC HND in a housing related subject.

HNC: Year 1

- (i) 5 GCSEs including English and Maths, plus 1 C at A Level or equivalent (80 UCAS points)
- (ii) BTEC National Certificate
- (iii) Mature students (over 21) without the above may be admitted on the basis of life and work experiences.
- (iv) Successful completion of an access course or appropriate foundation year.

BA (Hons): Year 3 part-time

Students on the Part-time mode will be required to pass the LSBU HNC before progressing to year 3 of the BA; students who have already completed the HNC Housing Studies elsewhere (at another CIH approved college) will be able to start in Year 3 of the BA (Hons) degree subject to confirmation that the necessary credits at the required levels have been achieved.

Credit for Prior Learning (APL)

Applicants may be able to use their learning from work or other life experiences to gain academic credit towards their programme of study. Applicants need to demonstrate that their learning is equivalent to formal

learning on the programme and produce satisfactory evidence. If an applicant has gained a qualification from a professional body or another institution this may be credited towards the University qualification via the transfer credit scheme.

Programme Structure

The course is delivered on a semester pattern, each semester being of 15 weeks duration. Students study 120 credits (normally 6 modules) at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6. There are two modes of study:Three years, full-time, taught over six semesters, three modules being taught in each semester; Five year, part-time, taught one day per week over ten semesters. The duration of the full-time course may be extended by one-year through enrolment on a University Foundation Course (Level S). Students may transfer from full-time to part-time, or part-time to full-time with the approval of the Course Director. A University module is the equivalent of 200 student study hours. Each module is a self-contained part of the programme of study and normally carries a single credit value. At Level 6 however the dissertation is a double weighted module. Modules on the course are:Level 4 (all included in HNC)

- Housing in Context
- Explanations in Housing Histories
- Society & Welfare
- Funding Social Housing
- Producing the Built Environment
- · Law for Housing Professionals

Level 5

- Organisations (included in HNC)
- Housing Management & Maintenance (included in HNC)
- Housing Development
- Policy Development and Evaluation 1
- Policy Development & Evaluation 2
- European Housing and Study Visit (includes study visit to Amsterdam)

Level 6

- Managing the New Housing
- Dissertation (double module 40 credits)
- Housing Economics
- Neighbourhood Management & Renewal (includes 3 day field trip to Manchester/Liverpool)
- Option: either Advanced Housing Law or Housing in Developing Countries