



Explore Design at Warwick\_

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**Design &  
Global Sustainable Development**  
BASc (Hons)



“Design is a creative, pluralist endeavour which welcomes all backgrounds and practices to intersect towards innovations for a better future. At Warwick Design Studies, we will invite you on a learning journey across disciplinary boundaries and we will help you build your Design Mindset and Design Skillset towards implementing sustainable change in the world.

The Design Studies team is dedicated to your success and the development of your personal practice and methodologies which will be led by your creative, intellectual and professional aspirations.”

**Adela Glyn-Davies**

Director of Undergraduate Studies



“On this unique and exciting course, you will explore current issues of global significance from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and examine how positive change can be achieved through the application of the theory and practice of design. This is a future facing programme which aims to develop a new generation of designers as holistic, strategic, and agile interdisciplinary practitioners. By studying this degree, you will acquire the knowledge and skills to become a responsible and ethical designer able to tackle society's major challenges in order to build a sustainable and regenerative society.

Warwick's innovative Design and Global Sustainable Development degree challenges you to think critically about important problems such as human rights, environmental impact, technological and digital advancement and consider practical, design-led solutions. Study with us and prepare to make a real difference in the world.”

**Professor Stéphanie Panichelli-Batalla**

Head of the School for Cross-Faculty Studies



# YEAR 1

In your first year of study you will take the following core Design modules (in addition to your core GSD modules):

## TERM 1

### **Introduction to Design\_**

Explores the diverse theories and practices of designing, the designed world, the impact of design on people, and the challenges and ambitions that motivate design. You will explore the discourse, theory and practices that form modern design as an academic discipline and profession, in addition to examining its globalisation, the various types of design and design professions and everyday designing. You will develop critical and creative capabilities for responding to the designed world. You will build your design skills and gain valuable experience from visiting diverse locations and working with innovative designs and designers who have worked on both national and international projects.

### **Introduction to Design Practice\_**

Explores design practice from holistic and reductionist perspectives, their relationship and critiques, and discovers diverse forms of thinking and making in design. You will explore design as a cross-disciplinary endeavour through considerations of impact on personal practice and methodologies, social and life-centred design as well as systemic design. This module exposes you to the wide and varied world of design outside of traditional practice; from artefact creation to designing systems that shape the structure and organisation of the world around us.

You will explore how design has impacted the world, solved and created problems and how design processes evolve to respond to the world's ever more complex challenges. This is done through collaborative and individual design challenges which will allow students to explore and test diverse and inventive methods to design and system thinking. Our students undertake a journey of experimentation, play and curiosity. This is a studio module which manoeuvres students into designerly ways of thinking, making and knowing.

## TERM 2

### **Service Design with UX for Social Impact\_**

Introduces you to the distinct yet overlapping disciplines of Service and User Experience (UX) Design from a digital development angle. Our students learn about common and emerging research and processes from the industry through a live brief which will guide their learning journey from research concept to realisation. The module will challenge you to use design methods to conceptually and visually capture the social paradigm of designing and how to navigate the needs of diverse groups who might have been at a mismatch in current systems. You will develop and propose an UX digital or hybrid solution to a service problem.

### **Visual Practice and Curiosity\_**

Introduces you to the visual research and making methods commonly found in Graphic and Interactive design, which will help support your learning journey towards building a professional and academic design skillset and mindset. This module aims to develop your



capabilities in visual reasoning, compositing, curating and rendering to support further practice and prepare you for a specialisation process starting from the second year.

## **Economic Principles of Global Sustainable Development\_**

Why and how can economics address issues of global sustainable development? In this module, you will learn about the relationship between economic activity, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, and critically analyse the economic theories that underpin sustainable development policy interventions and how those theories impact upon policy design.

## **Environmental Principles of Global Sustainable Development\_**

This module focuses on the natural science of the world's most pressing environmental issues. We will cover well-known topics like climate change and biodiversity loss and less prominent problems such as biochemical flows. You will evaluate existing governance and management efforts and develop

innovative responses of your own. You will learn how to create a policy briefing and pitch aimed towards a specific decision-making audience.

## **Social Principles of Global Sustainable Development\_**

This module examines concepts that enable you to analyse and interpret social and political issues related to global sustainable development. You will learn to understand and evaluate pressing social and political dimensions of sustainability at national and international levels.

## **Global Sustainable Development Project\_**

This is an exciting, innovative, and practical module. It is designed to give you research and analysis skills and to enable you to apply the theories from your other first-year core modules. You will learn how to research sustainability by designing and developing a group project on the topic of sustainable transport, under the guidance of an academic supervisor. Staff from across the GSD Department with expertise in transport policy as well as research methods teach this module.





## YEAR 2

In your second year of your degree, you will study the following core Design modules in Term One (in addition to your chosen GSD modules):

### **Systemic Design\_**

This module engages you in the processes and methods of systemic design. From systems thinking to practice, this module prepares you for the processes of dealing with complexity as an aspiring designer. This module introduces you to systemic design practice and the processes involved for redesigning a system (for example business and organisational structures), including methods for researching and scoping a system, mapping new structures and creating design interventions that lead to effective and positive systemic changes. The module is linked to real life contexts of local and regional communities.

### **Social Design\_**

This module supports your development as a designerly agent for change through engagement with local and regional communities. You will learn a range of approaches to participatory design, social action and entrepreneurship through investigating philosophies, methodologies, and case studies. The aims of this module are to give you the opportunity to explore and test interdisciplinary methods, approaches and frameworks related to design and systems thinking and to develop your emerging specialist practice and methodology.

### **Health and Sustainable Development\_**

Viable and equitable solutions in health and sustainable development requires an interdisciplinary

approach and critical thinking. The first part of the module will introduce you to fundamental concepts of global health governance and health systems, and acquaint you with key global health priorities like drug resistance and mental health from the perspective of global sustainable development. The second part of the module will focus on issues that relate to policies and behavioural change, and are also applicable beyond health, for example in areas like education or technology transfer.

### **Security, Sovereignty and Sustainability in the Global Food System\_**

Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to end hunger, end all forms of malnutrition, and ensure sustainable food production systems. However, the world population will likely increase to nearly 10 billion people by 2050. After decades of positive change, the incidence of malnourishment is again on the rise, global stocks of key food are contracting and it is currently more expensive to buy food than ever before in our planet's modern history.

This module addresses these significant challenges by encouraging students to adopt a 'food systems approach' in responding to the imperative agendas of food security, sovereignty and sustainability. The module is taught in collaboration with researchers from across various disciplines at Warwick, especially those involved in the University's Global Research Priority on Food.

In your second term, you will choose two of the following optional modules (alongside your core and optional GSD modules):

## **Inequalities and Sustainable Development: Inclusion and Dignity for All\_**

This module focuses on how inequalities shape our societies, economies, environments and politics. Starting with the question 'Does inequality matter?', you will critically reflect on the United Nations' decision to integrate inequalities into the Sustainable Development Agenda. You will then explore six different dimensions of inequalities (work, politics, environmental justice, societal discrimination, automation and globalisation, empowerment) and gain an understanding of the complexities of these problems. Finally, you will appreciate the challenges faced by today's policy makers who aim to address issues of inequalities while taking into consideration all three pillars of sustainable development.

## **Living with Materials 2\_**

Explores approaches to materials through a transdisciplinary lens and an international perspective. It combines theoretical and practical approaches that call on both the sciences and the humanities to consider and interact with materials. You can pursue a diverse series of routes assessing the lives of materials

through their qualities and transformations and will learn from a range of people who work professionally with materials in their academic and professional careers.

## **Spatial Agency\_**

This module aims to provide you with a transdisciplinary approach to spatial design and management that encourages you to think about geographical 'space' as a more dynamic and populated environment than it might traditionally have been considered. You will work with the understanding of agency from your own perspective but also those of others in the human and more-than-human environment.

## **Future Labs\_**

Future Labs offers a deep dive into world building and a holistic practice-led enquiry into how society and its systems are designed. On this 20-week journey you will research, analyse and design your own future city. This module aims to develop your sense-making capabilities through design methods and practices by fostering your design mindset and skillset in contexts of designing for a sustainable and regenerative future.

## **Part of your second year abroad\_**

Although it is not compulsory, we encourage you to study abroad during your degree. Please refer to Year Abroad Study and Work Placements on page 10 for more details.



# FINAL YEAR

In your final year of study, you will be required to take both the GSD Dissertation/Long Project and a Design Major Project. You will take the following core Design modules (in addition to your GSD modules):

## Design Research\_

Provides you with the opportunity to explore processes of practice-based and academic research of, for and through design. You will adopt a range of methodological approaches throughout and are encouraged to experiment with traditional and novel methods of design research, and to understand the importance of serious play. Ethical issues are embedded throughout the module, encouraging you to consider, address and critique your own standpoints and perspectives. The module works with you to explore and understand structures for research funding.

## The Business of Design\_

This module explores how designers, in a variety of contexts, act entrepreneurially to negotiate a range of economic, social, and environmental factors that impact their practice. You will explore and compare, how different design businesses operate, the skills, mindset, and capabilities of those that lead them, the challenges that both leaders and businesses face, and how they address them. You will reflect on this knowledge and how it can inform your own future career to formulate a plan for your own personal and professional development.

## Major Project\_

The end of course project challenges you to bring all of your learning together, and to apply it to a significant design challenge requiring descriptive, analytical, critical and creative responses. In this project you must address a global challenge related to the Global Sustainable Development Goals using Design

practices and methodology. This will give you the opportunity to apply and reflect on your knowledge and methods.

## GSD Dissertation/Long Project\_

In this module you will bring together all of your learning and experiences on the course - the theoretical concepts and principles and your practical know-how - in order to address a specific sustainable development problem of your own choosing. This will be a problem that concerns you most and which you would like to tackle.

You will be supported by an academic supervisor to devise a suitable project and to undertake research to explore the issue, taking a transdisciplinary approach to your investigation in order to produce an original research output. This may be a concept paper, a practical project, a film production, a long essay, an advocacy campaign...use your creativity!

You will design a strategy for disseminating your findings (for example at a conference presentation, via online publication or an article in a journal, or at a public meeting that you have arranged). This provides you with an opportunity to have your voice heard in a forum where it matters and could have lasting impact.

## Optional modules\_

You will also select two optional modules in your final year. Optional modules vary from year to year - please refer to our website for more details. Example optional modules include:

- >> Challenges of Climate Change
- >> Human Rights and Social Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean
- >> The Energy Trilemma
- >> Debt, Money, and Global Sustainable Development
- >> Realising Sustainable Development





# YEAR ABROAD STUDY AND WORK PLACEMENTS

Your university experience could be a truly global one by studying overseas. You can access study abroad opportunities via two routes:

## Study abroad for part of your second year\_

Spend the second and third terms of your second year studying at Monash University (home to the Monash Sustainable Development Institute).

Your time at Monash will be part of your degree, so you will graduate in three years. You will therefore gain the benefits of studying abroad without extending the length of your course. Your academic achievements abroad will count towards your degree awarded by Warwick, meaning your studies will be both rewarding and rewarded! This is a unique opportunity exclusively available to you as a GSD student.

You will have the chance to enhance your global outlook as you experience Monash's approach towards issues of global sustainable development. You will learn to appreciate that different regions of the world have different concerns and priorities for sustainable development, as well as different ways of tackling issues. You will broaden your learning in new and exciting ways by taking modules beyond the ones offered at Warwick.

## Year-long study abroad\_

If you want to extend your learning and broaden your perspective by studying abroad for a year, Warwick has partnerships with universities across the world. You will

spend your first and second years at Warwick, studying abroad in your third year.

You will then return to Warwick for your final year. Your year abroad won't count towards your overall final mark (but it will be recorded on your Higher Education Achievement Report), giving you the freedom to take chances with your module choices and push yourself outside of your comfort zone with your learning.

Depending on your destination, you will have the opportunity to learn a new language and immerse yourself in a new learning context.



## Work placements\_

### Year-long work placement

You will complete a four-year degree and your work placement will take place in your third year. The work placement can take place in the UK or globally and after completion, you will return to Warwick for your final year. Your year-long work placement will be formally recognised on your Higher Education Achievement Report.

### Short work placements

We support students to undertake shorter work placements throughout the year. Our previous GSD students have been successful in securing work placements with employers from the private, public, and third sectors. This includes Investment Banking, Advertising, Research Institutions, Governmental Bodies, NGOs, Intelligence Agencies, Environmental Consultancies, and many others. They have undertaken diverse roles, including but not limited to, Marketing Assistant, Sustainability Officer, Intelligence Analyst, and Researcher.



## Teaching\_

Your GSD modules will be taught by a range of academics with expertise in a range of interdisciplinary areas. They will communicate their expertise on a specific issue and describe their methodology for addressing it. We expect you to bring together these various approaches and to develop your own informed stance on each issue.

Your Design Studies modules will be taught by our expert academics. Several of our modules will be taught in our dedicated Design Studio, which provides facilities and materials to enable you to develop and hone your design skills . You will learn to work through practical, project-based design assignments that will range in their nature from working with hand constructed materials, plans and curation to digitally developed designs that simulate physical and virtual environments. Throughout your course you will work with live briefs from communities and employers in preparation for a successful career in the design industry.

## Professional Development and Accreditation\_

We acknowledge the importance of employability skills and we have embedded them as part of your studies.

We offer a series of bespoke co-curricular certificates and work placement options to continue your professional development.

Outside of the curriculum, the certificates aim to develop employability skills which have been identified by employers as being vital for success in the workplace. Your achievements will be recorded on your Higher Education Achievement Report which you can show to employers. You will have the opportunity to take part in both short and long work placements during your degree. Work placements will enable you to engage in the world of work and learn about the

professional environment. They are an opportunity for you to apply theory to practice, develop skills, learn from industry professionals as well as explore a future career path. This experience develops your employability skills and prepares you for future employment.

## CAREERS

Warwick's Design and Global Sustainable Development degree can lead to a range of career opportunities.

### Career opportunities\_

- >> Service Designer
- >> UX Designer
- >> Social Designer
- >> Concept Designer
- >> Design Consultant
- >> Design Leadership Advisor
- >> Strategical Designer
- >> Co-design Specialist
- >> Sustainability Specialist
- >> Systemic Designer
- >> Materials Specialist
- >> Product Design Researcher
- >> UX Researcher
- >> Data Visualiser
- >> Visual Data Researcher
- >> Ethnographic Researcher
- >> Design Researcher - Qualitative

## Certificates\_

### Certificate of Coaching Practice

This certificate aims to develop your ability and confidence to conduct effective coaching conversations. You will have the opportunity to practise the key skills - such as listening to understand, asking open questions, and building rapport and trust - that enable you to coach well. These skills are useful in many contexts, including teaching, consultancy and managing people.

### Certificate of Professional Communication

This certificate aims to develop your professional communication skills and promote your understanding of the working environment. It is designed to make the link between communication and employability, which is pivotal for your personal and professional growth.

Workshops will explore theories and concepts around communication in relation to the world of work. Using this preparation, you will undertake a short work placement which concludes the certificate.

### Carbon Literacy Certificate

This certificate is the first step for students to become carbon literacy trainers or consultants. You will learn to communicate about climate change and how to adapt your message to different audiences. You will also become familiar with tools which can induce change for a more sustainable future, both individually and as part of collective initiatives.

## Support\_

We have a dedicated Employability and Placement Manager who will provide you with one-to-one careers guidance. They work in collaboration with employers, so you will be supported in securing appropriate work placements. You will have access to specialist pre-placement advice, guidance and preparation, as well as on-going support during your placement. You will also have access to the University's Student Opportunity resources (including careers counselling, employment advice, and job fairs).

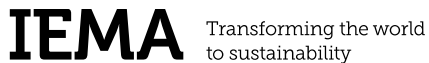
Find out more by visiting:  
[warwick.ac.uk/studentopportunity](http://warwick.ac.uk/studentopportunity)



## ACCREDITATION

Our GSD course has been accredited by IEMA (the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment) - the global professional body for individuals and organisations working, studying or interested in the environment and sustainability. Accreditation by IEMA confirms that our students receive a professionally recognised level of knowledge, skills and tools for working in sustainability practice.

All undergraduate students of GSD will receive a free student membership and upon completion of the course, will qualify for Graduate Membership of IEMA and the ability to use the GradIEMA title. Graduate members can "Fast track" to Practitioner Membership (PIEMA) following successful completion of a workbased assessment of competence.



## ASSESSMENT

The course uses a variety of assessment methods which are intended to reflect the types of outputs required in the professional environment. In this way, the course prepares you for the working world.

Across the course, you will produce practical work that is both material and digital in nature, such as sketchbooks and visual research, research papers, reports, policy briefings, posters, portfolios, critical commentaries, presentations in public fora, EPortfolios; blog posts; design dialogues (viva voce); video presentations, pitches, manifestos and traditional academic essays.

## GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### A levels\_

A level typical offer AAA.

### A level additional information\_

You will also need grade 6/B in GCSE Mathematics and grade 6/B in GCSE English Language.

While we do not require applicants to have formally studied subjects in art and design prior to application, we do look for a clear demonstration of applicants' interest in Design as well as Global Sustainable Development. Interest and experience should be described in your support statement, but it can also be supported by visual materials submitted as additional evidence.



## A level contextual offer\_

A level: AAB

We welcome applications from candidates who meet the contextual eligibility criteria and whose predicted grades are close to, or slightly below, the contextual offer level. The typical contextual offer is AAB. Visit our website to find out more.

## IB typical offer\_

36 to include English and Mathematics.

## IB additional information\_

You will also need grade 6/B in GCSE English Language or International Baccalaureate grade 5 in English A (Higher or Standard Level), grade 5 in Higher Level English B or grade 6 in Standard Level English B.

## IB contextual offer\_

We welcome applications from candidates who meet the contextual eligibility criteria and whose predicted grades are close to, or slightly below, the contextual offer level. The typical contextual offer is 34. If you do not have a grade B in GCSE Mathematics, you will need a grade 5 in Higher Level Mathematics or 6 in Standard Level Mathematics.





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"This course information was accurate at the time of publication (January 2024). While the University tries to ensure that the information is accurate, it does not warrant that this is the case. The University may need to make changes including to the course content, syllabus, delivery, methods of assessment, or to comply with external accrediting or reviewing bodies. It is therefore important that you revisit the relevant course website before you apply and when you accept an offer to ensure you are viewing the most up to date information. This information should not be construed as an offer and nor does it create a contract or other legally binding relationship between the University and you or a third party. For full terms and conditions, please visit [warwick.ac.uk/ugtermsandconditions](https://warwick.ac.uk/ugtermsandconditions)"