
Richmond American University London

**UK-validated Chinese award**

**BA (Hons): Environmental Design**

**Programme Specification**

**2025-2026**

## CONTENTS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the BA (Hons) Environmental Design awarded by Richmond American University London, using the agreement required by the Higher Education Qualification Framework in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (QAA, 2019).

The programme is devised, delivered and assessed by Jiangxi University of Technology, and validated for a UK award by Richmond American University London. The programme is delivered by Jiangxi University of Technology, in China, to its own students. Richmond American University London is responsible for the standard and issuance of UK awards and quality assurance and enhancement of the validated programmes at Jiangxi University of Technology.

The degree is delivered within the framework set by policies and regulations of National Standards for Teaching Quality of Undergraduate Majors in General Colleges and Universities of China. Typically, students complete 47 separate courses over the programme which takes 4 years. Normally, each course carries 1-6 Chinese academic credits and the relationship between credit hours and credits of various types of courses are explained below.

The degrees are also articulated in terms of UK Regulatory Frameworks, chiefly the FHEQ and the Higher Education Credit Framework for England. Each course has been assigned to an appropriate level on the FHEQ, based on the course's learning outcomes and assessment strategies (note that the courses comprising the first year of the 4-year Chinese undergraduate degree are normally at RQF Level 3). Chinese undergraduate credit can generally be translated to ECTS and UK CATS credits in the following manner: 1 Chinese credit = 2 ECTS credits = 4 UK CATS credits. A Richmond-validated UK award must have a minimum of 360 UK CATS credits at Levels 4-6 on the FHEQ.

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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course specification documents and syllabi.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University.

## 2. OVERVIEW

| | |
|---|---|
| **Programme/award title(s)** | BA (Hons) Environmental Design |
| **Teaching Institution** | Jiangxi University of Technology |
| **Awarding Institution** | Richmond American University London |
| **Date of last validation** | October 2023 |
| **Next revalidation** | 2028 |
| **Credit points for the award** | 360 UK CATS credits (total credits for L4-L6 360) |
| **Programme start date** | September 2025 |
| **Underpinning subject benchmark(s)** | Please see UK Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmarks Statement, Art & Design: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781_22 |
| **Professional/statutory recognition** | N/A |
| **Language of Study** | Chinese |
| **Language of Assessment** | Chinese |
| **Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT, DL)** | FT |
| **Date of production/revision of this specification** | June 2025 |

## 3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

According to the development trend of Environmental Design in China and overseas and combined with the market, Environmental Design has gradually established a curriculum system with application characteristics. The professional courses are composed of professional basic courses, professional courses and practical learning courses, and construct a curriculum system of "Basic Theory + Professional Technology + Innovative Design Ability". Among them, Sketch, Colour and other professional basic courses develop students' basic modelling ability. Professional courses such as Digital 3D Space Design, Basic Design of Lighting Technology, Interior Design, Furnishings and Display Art and Public Area/Space Design develop students' practical ability to understand the art theories and methods related to Environmental Design and demonstrate the skills of the collection, acquisition, transformation and processing of graphics, images and words required by Environmental Design. Sketching and other practical learning courses strengthen students' professional skills through a cycle of practical training.

## 4. MISSION

The undergraduate major of Environmental Design is a school level characteristic major, which aims to train students to have the basic theory, professional knowledge and practical skills of Environmental Design, and be able to engage in design planning, design education, production service and management. This major develops students' independent entrepreneurial ability and innovative spirit through the combination of theory and practice. These major aims to help students become applied and innovative high-quality talents who understand the basic theoretical knowledge of Environmental Design and relevant professional skills in the design field, have the practical ability of innovation and Environmental Design and have the ability of project planning and management. Graduates can use sketching, computer programs, planning communication and technical means to solve practical problems in the field of Environmental Design and improve their design and innovation ability.

## 5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

In order to meet the requirements of the UK award, students must:

- satisfactorily complete ALL required courses listed below at each FHEQ level;
- satisfactorily complete the minimum number of optional courses listed below, at each FHEQ Level;
- earn a minimum of 120 UK credits at each of the levels 4-6 (360 UK credits total)*, and;
- achieve a minimum UKGPA of 1.850.

*Please note, some programmes require a higher minimum UK credit threshold at each FHEQ level, please refer to the structure below for the programme.
For more information about Richmond's UKGPA calculations and UK Degree Classification boundaries, please refer to JXUT's dedicated UK-award policy pages.

The normal number of courses in each academic year is determined according to the actual schedule of courses in each academic year. In the first year, 12 courses are delivered for 30 credits (120 UK credits). In the second year, 8 courses are delivered for 30 credits (120 UK credits). In the third year, 10 courses are delivered for 30 credits (120 UK credits). In the fourth year, there are 6 courses with a total of 30 credits (120 UK credits).

| RQF Level 3 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Course Code** | **Course Title** | **CREDITS (China)** | **CREDITS (UK)** |
| 106020101076 | College English (1) | 4 | 16 |
| 104010101372 | Career Planning | 1 | 4 |
| 102030101301 | University Computer Foundation | 2 | 8 |
| 107010201252 | Design Introduction | 2 | 8 |
| 1070202012368 | Sketch | 4 | 16 |
| 1070202012369 | Colour and Form | 4 | 16 |
| 107020201238 | Spatial Composition | 2 | 8 |
| 107020201236 | Composition (Colour) | 1 | 4 |
| 1070203012500 | Ergonomics | 2 | 8 |
| 1070203012427 | Computer-aided Design | 4 | 16 |
| 1070103042497 | Chinese and Foreign Art History | 2 | 8 |
| 1070404012367 | Folk Art Collection in Field | 2 | 8 |
| **RQF Level 3 Credit Totals** | | 30 | 120 |

| FHEQ Level 4 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Course Code** | **Course Title** | **CREDITS (China)** | **CREDITS (UK)** |
| 106020101074 | College English (2) | 4 | 16 |
| 1070203012484 | Architectural Drawing | 4 | 16 |
| 1070203012509 | Interior Design Sketching | 4 | 16 |
| 1070203012491 | Lighting Technology | 2 | 8 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 107020301188 | Sustainable Material and Construction Technology | 4 | 16 |
| 1070203012424 | SketchUp | 4 | 16 |
| 1070203012505 | Computer-aided Design – AutoCAD | 4 | 16 |
| 1070404012431 | Market Research | 4 | 16 |
| **FHEQ Level 4 Credit Totals** | | 30 | 120 |

| **FHEQ Level 5** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Course Code** | **Course Title** | **CREDITS (China)** | **CREDITS (UK)** |
| 106020101072 | College English (3) | 4 | 16 |
| 106020101070 | College English (4) | 4 | 16 |
| 113010101035 | Innovation Education | 2 | 8 |
| 107020301196 | Digital 3D Space Design | 4 | 16 |
| 107020301204 | Architectural Model and Technology | 4 | 16 |
| 1070203032490 | Design of Furniture Modelling | 2 | 8 |
| 1070203032492 | Interior Furnishing | 2 | 8 |
| 1070203032483 | Public Area/Space Design | 2 | 8 |
| 107020303134 | Commercial Interior Design | 4 | 16 |
| 1070203042493 | Product Modelling Design of Furniture Series | 2 | 8 |
| **FHEQ Level 5 Credit Totals** | | 30 | 120 |

| **FHEQ Level 6** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Course Code** | **Course Title** | **CREDITS (China)** | **CREDITS (UK)** |
| 104010101374 | Employment Guidance | 1 | 4 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 104010101375 | Entrepreneurship Education | 1 | 4 |
| 1070203032508 | Professional Project Design | 8 | 32 |
| 1070404012425 | Design Exhibition Week | 6 | 24 |
| 1190404011167 | Undergraduate Practice | 6 | 24 |
| 1190404011168 | Undergraduate Dissertation (Design) | 8 | 32 |
| **FHEQ Level 6 Credit Totals** | | 30 | 120 |

Note: FHEQ levels 4-6 = 360 UK credits

i.e. meets UK credit minimum requirement

Blue = Gen Ed / Common Foundation courses
Black = Major compulsory courses

## 6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below. Please refer to the Curriculum Map at the end of this document for details of how outcomes are deployed across the study programme.

### Knowledge and Understanding (A)

**A1**: Be familiar with professional norms and industry norms in the field of Environmental Design.

**A2**: Have a broad understanding of modelling theory and the practical ability creating art and design.

**A3**: Have a broad critical, historical and contextual understanding of the fundamental principles, concepts and technologies in the field of environmental design.

**A4**: Have an understanding of the main theories, methods, modes and approaches that may be used in the field of environmental design.

**A5**: Gain an understanding that will affect and influence their own learning and future career planning.

### Cognitive Skills (B)

**B1**: Be able to draw established ideas, concepts and technologies from learning and research, and use the existing knowledge to solve the problems encountered in environmental design.

**B2**: Recognize and critically understand different concepts and methods in spatial art, organization and work.

**B3**: Select and apply software and tools related to the field of environmental design.

**B4**: Be able to critically reflect and evaluate in learning and work.

### Practical and/or professional skills (C)

**C1**: Understand basic theories and methods of environmental design and actively be able to apply these in practice, solve a series of problems in the field of practice by comprehensive use of artistic techniques, information dissemination, modern scientific and technological means and other achievements and methods.

**C2**: Use new perspectives, new technologies and multidisciplinary knowledge as the basis for improving the level of design works.

**C3**: Be capable of independent operation and expression from planning to later implementation, team cooperation and division of labour, cross-professional communication, competition and cooperation.

### Key Skills (D)

**D1**: Use appropriate spatial design and language to effectively communicate information, views and arguments to the audience.

**D2**: Read and understand professionally relevant knowledge, and perform analysis and evaluation tasks related to environmental design professional content.

**D3**: Master the basic methods of literature retrieval and data query and master the design tools to complete various environmental designs.

**D4**: Understand the thinking mode of Environmental Design and have the ability of creative display.

**D5**: Have innovative design consciousness and understand the origin, current situation and development trend of various design styles and schools.

## 7. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

### Teaching Strategy

The teaching strategy adopted in the BA (Hons) Environmental Design degree is based on the understanding that all students will be regarded as active learners. The exact approach will vary from course to course, depending on the learning outcomes relevant to each class.

The general components of our teaching strategies usually involve a variety of approaches, including providing many of the following:

- Studio / practice-based learning will form the baseline for teaching
- Regular use of formal lecture courses in all courses
- Workshops and seminars are held from time to time in some courses
- Use individual and/or team-based projects regularly in all courses
- Use self-directed and guided reading regularly in all courses
- Use audio-visual and library resources in some courses
- Field research trips
- Professional projects visits

The combination of the above teaching methods develops our students' knowledge, thinking ability and practical ability.

Their knowledge is acquired through:

- Specialized lectures
- Instruction in reading and using the Internet
- Independent research

Their cognitive skills are developed through:

- Conducting research.
- Giving presentations and reviewing peer work

Their practical skills are gained through:

- Applying theory to practice in studio and through self-directed work at home and through internships
- Using information technology to retrieve and process data
- Negotiating through team projects

Their key skills are gained through:

- Reference to literature and research, mastering design tools and completing focused design projects (Interior Design Project included in Years 2, 3 and 4)
- Adopting and using appropriate language skills

## Assessment Strategy

In general, our assessment strategies are in accordance with Regulations *on Examination Management of Jiangxi University of Technology* and *Measures for Evaluation and Recording of Score of General Performance at JXUT***.**

Further details may be found at:

https://zhysxw.jxut.edu.cn/info/1143/1154.htm
https://zhysxw.jxut.edu.cn/info/1145/1158.htm

Appendix 2 – 7.1 Regulations on Examination Management of Jiangxi University of Technology

Appendix 3 – 7.2 Measures for Evaluation and Recording of Score of General Performance at JXUT.

Grade (Comprehensive score) (Centesimal) = score of general performance (100 points*X) + score of final exams (100 points*Y). “X” refers to the proportion of the score of general performance in the comprehensive score and “Y” refers to the proportion of the score of final exams in the comprehensive score (X+Y=100%).

In general, the proportion of the score of general performance within the comprehensive score should not exceed 30%. For highly practice or skills driven courses, the proportion of the score of general performance shall not exceed 50%. Scores of general performance are composed of scores of performances in class and scores of assigned works. Scores of performances in class include score of classroom disciplines, score of class attendance and

score of answering questions in class. Scores of assigned works include scores of quizzes, written assignment, case study, attainment logs from experiment, presentation on skills and assessed work, 2 or 5 of which are assessed by teachers based on course features.

Students obtain their scores of final examinations by participating in final exams. According to course specification, assessment forms of final exam can be divided into “final exam” and “performance evaluation.” Final exams are arranged in the last two weeks of each semester and are arranged by the Academic Affairs Office, who would issue final exam handbooks for students and for invigilators. In general, a final exam lasts for 120 minutes. Most final exams are taken in a "closed book" format, while courses focusing on general skills/knowledge or creativity can be taken in an "open book" format.

For students with SENDs, please refer to the syllabus for more information about SEND concessions.

## 8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### Admissions

Students are required to take part in the NCEE (Gaokao) organized by the Ministry of Education and apply for our programme. JXUT recruits students nationwide. Students majoring in Environmental Design also need to take an additional examination of art major, and the enrolment is based on the admission score line of local art major. The upper limit of the total admissions is determined by the Enrolment Plan approved by the provincial government.

## 9. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

**Certificate of Higher Education in Environmental Design (UK)**

The UK CertHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

**Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Design (UK)**

The UK DipHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4
120 credits at FHEQ Level 5

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

The requirements for the UK DipHE are outlined in the sections of Table 1 and Table 2 above pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 and FHEQ Level 5 requirements.

Further details may be found at:

Appendix 4 – Academic Policies/ Implementation Rules for Student Status Management of Jiangxi University of Technology.

## 10. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

There is a range of student support and guidance, for both academic and general wellbeing, available to students. This is accomplished through a range of work-streams and services which positively impact learning as well as the total student life experience.

There are 15 teaching buildings and 34 dormitory buildings in the University, with about 9,000 dormitories. There are 328 classrooms of various types with a total seating capacity of 33,194, and a total of 230 experimental and practical training rooms. Students can study in the teaching area, listen to lectures, perform experimental (training) classes and carry out academic exchanges and cultural and recreational activities. There are 44 outdoor sports grounds and 22 sports support facilities on campus, with a total area of 113,000 square meters. There is also one large sports ground and a gymnasium building. There is also a modernized library with a total area of 33,000 square meters. The library provides a total of 3,200 self-study seats for students. In addition to normal working days, it is also open to students during non-working hours. The opening hours of the library are from 8:00 a.m. to 22:30 p.m. from Monday to Sunday.

The University has set up a Student Affairs Office which is responsible for daily management and service of students. The University arranges a counsellor for each class. The University has also set up a Student Financial Aid Management Centre which deals with student loans

and scholarships in order to ensure that students enjoy equal access to education. The mental health education centre disseminates mental health knowledge to students, provides psychological counselling and offers physical and mental health education courses.
Related web links will be provided in the future.

The University makes a variety of special provisions in exams and assessment for students with a diagnosed learning disability. This might include a physical or sensory impairment, a medical or psychiatric condition or a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia and may require additional support or adaptations to our facilities.

Students with documented specific learning difficulties, mental health conditions, or physical disabilities are required to provide appropriate documentation of your additional needs to the Office of Student Affairs upon enrolment or as soon as possible thereafter.

The university will make sure that students with mobility impairments have the required access they need to classroom space, residential areas and study space.

The student and their inspectors are informed of the provisions after they are approved, and reminders are sent to students and invigilators shortly before the examinations.

## 11. PLACEMENT

The University offers a formal mechanism through which students may receive work-placement opportunities. These placements are supervised under the University's Internship Leadership Office and Teaching Affairs Office and executed by each secondary school respectively.

These placements are managed, career-related work experiences combined with reflective, academic study that help students apply theoretical knowledge in the workplace. There are t wo modes of internships: designated internship in companies with partnership of the Univer sity and individual internship in workplaces found by students themselves. Further details m ay be found in *Internship Notice* at:
https://zhysxw.jxut.edu.cn/info/1161/1190.htm

Appendix 5 - Notice on the Internship for the Class of 2023.

The Admissions and Employment Office of JXUT provides employment guidance services for students, organizes large-scale enterprise recruitment fairs regularly every year and offers courses such as Career Planning and Employment Guidance. Secondary schools organize

relevant job fairs for students before graduation, providing them with information consultation, resume development and other services.

## 12. STUDY ABROAD

Study Aboard for this programme is not available at this moment, but we will monitor and listen to students and set up relevant projects or opportunities in the future when necessary.

## 13. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The BA (Hons) Environmental Design is operated under the policy and regulatory of the *Chinese National Standards for Teaching Quality of Undergraduate Majors in General Colleges and Universities*.

The BA (Hons) Environmental Design is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond American University London, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Also key to the background for this description are the following documents:

- QAA (2018). The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education. (www.qaa.ac.uk)
- QAA (2008). Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England.
- SEEC (2016). Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education. Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (www.seec.org.uk).

### Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include

- External Examiners
- Internal Moderation
- Teaching Material Review Conducted by Teaching Supervision Office
- Classroom Observations and Peer-to-peer Evaluations
- Student Feedback and Student Evaluation
- Student Forum
- Course Evaluations
- Student Feedback Staff
- New Teachers Training

- President Reception Days
- Feedback from employers
- Assessments of Ministry of Education (every 5 years)

## APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map

| | | Knowledge and Understanding | | | | | Cognitive Skills | | | | Prof Skills | | | Key Skills | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | B1 | B2 | B3 | B4 | C1 | C2 | C3 | D1 | D2 | D3 | D4 | D5 |
| **Year 1/ RQF Level 3** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 106020101076 | College English (1) | | | | | × | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 104010101372 | Career Planning | | | | | x | | | | x | | | | | | | | |
| 102030101301 | University Computer Foundation | | | | | | | | | | x | x | | | | | | |
| 107010201252 | Design Introduction | | | × | × | | × | | | | × | | | | | | | × |
| 1070202012368 | Sketch | | × | × | × | | × | | | | × | | | | | | | |
| 1070202012369 | Colour and Form | | × | × | × | | × | | | | × | | | | | | | |
| 107020201238 | Spatial Composition | | x | × | x | | × | | | | x | | | | | | | |
| 107020201236 | Composition (Colour) | | x | × | x | | × | | | | x | | | | | | | |
| 1070203012500 | Ergonomics | x | | | × | | x | | | | x | x | | | | | | |
| 1070203012427 | Computer-aided Design | | | × | x | | × | | x | | | × | | | | | | |
| 1070103042497 | Chinese and Foreign Art History | | | x | × | | x | | | | × | | | × | | × | | |
| 1070404012367 | Folk Art Collection in Field | × | | | × | | × | | | | × | × | | | × | | | |
| **Year 2/ FHEQ Level 4** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 106020101074 | College English (2) | | | | | × | | | | | | | | | | | | x |
| 1070203012484 | Architectural Drawing | x | | | × | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1070203012509 | Interior Design Sketching | | | x | x | | | | x | | | | | | | | x | |
| 1070203012491 | Lighting Technology | | | | x | | x | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 107020301188 | Sustainable Material and Construction Technology | x | | x | | x | x | | | | x | × | | | | | | x |
| 1070203012424 | SketchUp | x | x | | x | | | x | x | | x | | | | x | | | |
| 1070203012505 | Computer-aided Design AutoCAD | | | x | x | | x | | x | | | x | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1070404012431 | Market Research | x | | | | x | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | |
| **Year 3/ FHEQ Level 5** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 106020101072 | College English (3) | | | | | x | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 106020101070 | College English (4) | | | | | x | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 107020301196 | Digital 3D Space Design | | | | | | | | x | | | x | | x | | | x | |
| 113010101035 | Innovation Education | | | | | x | | | | x | | | | | | | | x |
| 107020301204 | Architectural Model and Technology | x | x | | | | x | | x | | | | | | | | | |
| 1070203032490 | Design of Furniture Modelling | x | x | | | | | | x | | | | | | | | | |
| 1070203032492 | Interior Furnishing | | | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1070203032483 | Public Area/Space Design | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 107020303134 | Commercial Interior Design | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | x |
| 1070203042493 | Product Modelling Design of Furniture Series | | x | | x | | x | | | | x | | | | | | | |
| **Year 4/ FHEQ Level 6** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 104010101374 | Employment Guidance | x | | | | x | | | | x | | | x | | x | x | | |
| 104010101375 | Entrepreneurship Education | x | | | | x | | | | x | | | x | | | x | | |
| 1070203032508 | Professional Project Design | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | x |
| 1070404012425 | Design Exhibition Week | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | x | x |
| 1190404011167 | Undergraduate Practice | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | × | x | × | x | × | | | | | x |
| 1190404011168 | Undergraduate Dissertation (Design) | | | x | | | | x | | | | | | | x | | × | |

## Programme Specification Publication Dates

| Document publication date | |
|---|---|
| **October 2023** | Programme validation |
| **July 2024** | Reviewed and updated for academic year 2024-25 |
| **June 2025** | Reviewed and updated for academic year 2025-26 |
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