Fire Safety

Module Descriptor

Module Code: BCU6FSA

Version: 4.00

Status: Final

Date: 15/09/2022

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Fire Safety

Module Leader: Dylan Harvey

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Autumn (UK)

Level: 6

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact & Study Hours:

Directed Study Time: 90 hrs (45%)

Self-Directed Study Time: 50 hrs (25%)

Assessment Study Time: 60 hrs (30%)

Assessment Type:

Coursework: 100%

Computer Marked Assessment: 0%

Self-directed Research Project: 0%

Portfolio: 0%

Module Summary

Fire safety is a core competency within the industry and one which is essential for students to become members of the accrediting professional bodies. The module draws on students' learning in earlier construction technology and law modules and the Building Control module at level 5. Students study the nature of fire, the relevant regulations and standards, methods of protection of buildings and occupiers and means of escape, in relation to domestic and commercial buildings.

Taken on which Programmes

BSc (Hons) Building Control (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Expand on knowledge and understanding gained from previous modules, in particular those relating to construction technology and law.
- Understand the principles of the behaviours of fire in relation to buildings.
- Appreciate human behaviour in such situations and relate this to the implementation of effective means of escape in the event of fire.
- Expand knowledge and understanding of legislation relevant to fire safety and when this legislation applies in relation to domestic and commercial property, low and high rise.
- Examine case studies and lessons learned from fire incidences.
- Appreciate the need for fire detection and suppression systems.
- Apply fire safety principles to case study examples to mimic real life situations.

Module Learning Outcomes

LO1. Examine the combustion process, the behaviours of fire and human reactions to fire events, means of protection of the structure of buildings and demonstrate knowledge of the methods needed to ensure safety of human life.

LO2. Examine and comprehend the component parts of legislative, statutory and professional body requirements relating to fire safety and apply, where relevant, according to circumstance, context and location.

LO3. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate plans, drawings and specifications in relation to fire safety of buildings and advise on any shortcomings and where appropriate, to propose alternative solutions.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **The combustion process, physics and chemistry of fire and the physiological and psychological effects of fire**

  How fires start, how they spread, methods of containment and protection of the structure of buildings.

- **Legislation relevant to fire safety**

  Building Regulations, British Standards and regulations in other parts of the world. Examination of fire incidences that have shaped this legislation. Contents and details of the legislation and where it applies.

- **Means of escape**

  Design of buildings to facilitate safe escape of occupants including fire doors, lobbies, protected routes and staircases and means of escape.

- **Fire detection and suppression systems**

  The requirement for fire detection and suppression systems.

- **The role of Building Control Surveyors in fire safety**

  Evaluation of plans and other documents to assess fire safety and action to be taken in the event of non-compliance, including recommending alternative solutions where possible.

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, moral and financial changes in professional standards and practice.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1, LO2	**Assessment 1** Coursework	1,500	30%
LO1, LO2, LO3	**Assessment 2** Coursework	3,500	70%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 40%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library. Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the UCEM e-Library.

Module tools

Students will have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

The module page on the VLE is broken down into structured study weeks to help students plan their time, with each week containing a mixture of reading, case studies, videos/recordings and interactive activities to go through. Online webinars/seminars led by the Module Leader can be attended in real time and provide opportunities to consolidate knowledge, ask questions, discuss topics and work through learning activities together. These sessions are recorded to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session and work through it at their own pace. Module forums on the VLE provide further opportunities to discuss topics with other students, complete collaborative work and get extra help from the module team.

Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit the VLE e-Library.

Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, ***Knowledge Foundations*** - a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module website and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.