Living Lab project summary – Re-envisioning 7 Bristo Square

Description of the paper
This paper describes a volunteer and coursework project for the MSc Advanced Sustainable Design, which ran from Semester 1 to Semester 2 2017/18, culminating in a design exhibition.

Research question
How can a university building (7 Bristo Square) be re-envisioned not only for sustainability and climate change adaptation in 2030, but also with consideration of new learning and teaching methods that could define student spaces in the future?

Objectives
1. Collaboration between student volunteer commissioning group and MSc Advanced Sustainable Design students to develop a design brief on future sustainable learning and teaching over a series of workshops.
2. The commissioning group critiques interim designs based on the design brief, presented at a pecha kucha session.
3. Design students refine designs for Semester 2 based on critique, and commissioning group students choose design elements from the final designs that they consider best exemplify the brief to highlight at the final exhibition.
4. The exhibition showcases the work of all individuals involved and presents a narrative of the process of design development, with production of a catalogue of all final designs.

Findings and recommendations
The design recommendations proposed through this project are available in the final exhibition catalogue, and description of the process was seen in the exhibition itself, as well as detailed on the MSc website and SRS blog. Colleagues in Estates are engaging with the catalogue of work for future discussions with students and consideration of refurbishments/retrofit of campus buildings.