

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION Architecture and Design Foundation Studies

Final award	BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons).
Intermediate awards available	BA, BSc, Cert HE, Dip HE.
Mode of delivery	UEL on campus.
UCAS code	4A33
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Architecture (2010) & Art & Design (2008)
UEL Academic School	Architecture Computing and Engineering (ACE)
Date specification last updated	11 November 2015

The summary - UCAS programme profile-

BANNER BOX:

This programme is designed to prepare students for careers in architecture, spatial and product design by providing a broad education that encompasses the principals, the techniques and the practices of these disciplines.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The programme is designed for students who demonstrate the motivation and ability to success on an Honours Degree programme in the fields of Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design or related fields of study.

Applicants have 120 UCAS tariff points, together with five subjects at GCSE levels Grade C or above including English and Maths. Art or art related subjects are also desirable.

BTEC Art & Design equivalent
GNVQ Art & Design
ACCESS Art & Design

We welcome applicants with a wide range of academic or professional experience, including equivalent overseas qualification or work experience in a related field

We accept students with either humanities or science backgrounds together with arts subjects. We look for students who can demonstrate some *potential* in spatial or object design; craft and making, creative imagination and visual or constructive aptitude, together with the potential ability and motivation to successfully complete the programme.

Candidates are normally required to attend an interview and to present a portfolio of art and design work through which they can demonstrate an interest in the field of architecture, interior, spatial or object design. We also accept portfolios digitally or by post.

Conditions may be relaxed for mature students, or if the applicant shows other evidence of being particularly able to benefit from the programme and there is a reasonable expectation that they would be able to fulfil the university's entry requirements and the objectives of the programme

Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, the University's English Language requirements as detailed on the website at time of application must be met – see <http://www.uel.ac.uk/international/application/english-language-requirements/>

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 5.5 (or equivalent) is required in all components.

At UEL we are committed to working together to build a learning community founded on equality of opportunity - a learning community which celebrates the rich diversity of our student and staff populations. Discriminatory behaviour has no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Within a spirit of respecting difference, our equality and diversity policies promise fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all. In pursuing this aim, we want people applying for a place at UEL to feel valued and know that the process and experience will be transparent and fair and no one will be refused access on the grounds of any protected characteristic stated in the Equality Act 2010.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is Architecture and Design Foundation Studies

This programme is designed to prepare you for a career in architecture, interior, spatial or product design by providing you with an introduction to the principles, techniques and the practices of these disciplines.

This is an intentionally comprehensive and exploratory foundation year offering you the opportunity to experience a range of areas across the field of 3-dimensional design and to develop a committed and self-motivated working practise, before selecting a progression route via the Extended Degree, into either architecture, spatial, or product undergraduate design programmes at UEL.

You will gain the necessary skills and experience to carry out a range of design and academic projects in the studio with staff who are all practising designers. They will guide you in preparing a design portfolio to showcase your general and specialist skills. You will participate in regular visits to central London and beyond to see designed objects and buildings, and meet the people who designed them

Successful completion of Level 3 programme gives you direct entry to the following specialist programmes at UEL at Level 4, subject to suitable portfolio interview and attendance:

K100 Architecture (ARB/RIBA Part 1) overall average of at least 60% required
K101 Architectural Design Technology
4W53 Interior Design
H764 Product Design
& other design based pathways

Architecture and Design Foundation Studies at UEL

You will have the opportunity to share in the ethos of our established teaching of Architecture and Design, that is renowned for its diverse student and staff population and its excellent track record of graduate employment. We will introduce you to our emphasis on 'hands on' making, craft, experimentation and the study of materiality, as well as to a range of specialist industry software packages that are used within the design industry.

Our intake of students from all areas of spatial and object design onto the programmes will allow you to test out creative partnerships that mirror those formed in real-life practice. What further defines your experience will be an emphasis on completing 'live', group and competition projects when you can develop your abilities in collaborative working, negotiation and interpersonal skills. Through practice visits, lectures and participation of notable practicing designers as tutors and visiting critics, this will expand your access to connection with the contemporary design industry.

Programme structure

The programme is only available in full time mode starting annually in September.

Learning environment

Within ACE our academic programme strive to develop practice that enhances life in the context of nature and society. Staff and student from all over the world work on design projects situated both locally and internationally. Our core team is supplemented by a number of internationally renowned practitioners who feed their expertise into the School through regular lectures and debates, design reviews and studio teaching.

The heart of the academic programme is the design studio where you will learn the strategies of spatial and object design through active participation in design projects. The programme is based with ACE, located in the A.V.A. building, on the UEL Docklands Campus, so you will have direct access to students studying on all levels of our degree programmes as well as at post-graduate level. In carrying out all academic work you are introduced to, and are expected to take the opportunity to use all available facilities and the IT platforms that are used for sharing communication. These include the extensive wood, metal and digital fabrication workshops, IT labs, photographic darkrooms, printing and computer suites.

Lectures and seminars take place in the AVA building and adjacent buildings. There is a dedicated study library adjoining on the Docklands Campus with extensive opening hours. As part of your studies, you will regularly visit study sites and buildings off campus, in London, together with the offer of a study trip and abroad.

You are expected to complement formal teaching and assignments with self-directed research and testing out your skills using a variety of design approaches. Developing skills in time management, being able to make creative decisions, and becoming more critical and reflective about personal project work are essential attributes of becoming a design professional. At the end of the academic year, you will exhibit your work as part of the end of year showcase and annual catalogue showcasing the best work.

Assessment

All modules are assessed at the end of the academic year. Although each module is assessed separately against specific outcomes and criteria, the assessed work fits together in the form of an overarching academic 'portfolio'. You are encouraged to see your work as a whole. This includes work in a wide variety of media and is what you will take with you when you apply for work or further study.

The programme fosters a culture of continuous production and feedback. The programme for the production of work and the presentation of work for feedback is structured. The general expectation is that regular feedback is provided to enable you to improve your work and learning. Formative feedback is given at tutorials and at crits, summative feedback is given through portfolio reviews and following the end of year assessments.

ACADEMIC PROGRESSION: As a condition of progressing from level 3 to level 4, students are required to have gained 120 credits. This is gained by completing and achieving pass marks (40%) in all four core modules offered at level 3.

Successful completion of Level 3 programme gives you direct entry to the following specialist programmes at UEL. Subject to entry requirements usually entry to BSc Architecture with a pass of 65% in all modules or higher

- K100 Architecture Part 1
- K101 Architectural Design Technology
- 4W53 Interior Design
- H764 Product design
- & other design based pathways

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Programme Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the programme.

Work experience/placement opportunities

There is no expectation of formal placement opportunities as part of this programme because the design portfolio is a cumulative exercise meaning it will be produced during the, and the completed portfolio is the main vehicle for seeking entrance to a degree programme.

Direct experience of the workplace will be supported through practice and by factory visits and through opportunities for attendance at some of the design fairs and exhibitions that punctuate the design calendar in London and internationally. For example; 100% Design, Clerkenwell Design Week, London Design Festival, Ecobuild , Milan Furniture Fair, the Venice Architecture Biennale.

It is widely recognised within the industry that relationships with clients and 'pitching' together with participation in the competition process are important aspects of any design studio activities. Therefore you will participate in a competition project in order to gain 'real time' experience in terms of working to deadlines and testing your verbal and written presentation skills.

Project work

The majority of your work will be carried out and assessed via set and/or self-directed projects, whether group or individual, in the areas of precedent studies, research, contextual studies, design and 'making' as outlined in this specification.

Added value

* It has been demonstrated that graduates in design disciplines are equipped with the appropriate skills and abilities to operate effectively in the marketplace. In particular, they display resourcefulness, entrepreneurial skills and the capacity to establish new and innovative enterprises at a time when there is increasing demand for visual communication, rapid developments in technology and expanding public interests in the visual arts and media.

*In addition to subject specific skills and abilities, and knowledge in the field of design, throughout the programme you will begin to develop skills that are directly transferable to the employment marketplace including:

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- the ability to listen effectively and so to learn from and participate constructively in discussion
- the ability to work constructively and productively in groups
- the ability to work diligently, to fulfil briefs and deadlines
- the ability to make effective use of IT for research and communication
- the ability to communicate ideas and arguments cogently and effectively in written, spoken or other form
- the ability to update knowledge and skills, seek and use feedback, reflect on, and improve performance.
- the skills of analysis, synthesis and effective summary
- the skills of critical judgment : the ability to discriminate between alternative arguments and approaches
- problem-solving skills
- research skills : the capacity for critical, effective information retrieval & organisation relevant to a given task
- open-mindedness: the ability to be open and receptive to potential design & intellectual challenges

**extracts taken from section 6.8/6.10 of QAA Art & Design Benchmark Statement 2008*

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in

- Design including architecture, interior, theatrical, product or furniture design
- How the spaces we live in and objects we use are designed
- The impact that design can have on people, culture and places

If you enjoy....

- *Drawing and experimenting through drawing by hand and using computers*
- *Making and testing ideas by 'making'*
- *Responding to design briefs in imaginative ways*
- *Setting trends & expressing ideas about how the spaces & objects can be designed differently*

If you want....

- To build a portfolio that demonstrates your knowledge and skill and fully prepares you for entering a degree level design programme
- A wide-ranging design programme that develops your creativity as well as your knowledge and judgement
- To explore the full range of projects that 3 dimensional designers are involved in before selecting an area of specialism for further study.

Your future career

This programme is designed as the first step in a career in the creative industries and in particular architecture, interior or product design. Generally you will be expected to complete this programme and continue your studies at undergraduate level before seeking employment or further MA qualifications within your chosen field

Give examples of career paths and professional qualifications/memberships available as a result of the programme, routes to further study, long term career potential.

How we support you

The programme is organised to help you to develop the practical skills that you needs such as drawing, model making and computer aided design. The complexity and specialisation of the projects will increase as your skills and knowledge expand. This is achieved because every project is taught by specialist teachers who give regular one-to-one tutorials, advice and feedback on your work and about your portfolio.

On enrolment, you will be provided with introductory materials on the use of the UEL Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and UEL Direct

During your studies, you will be supported by academic, support and technical staff from your academic school.

Bonus factors

You will have opportunities to experience all the open design and architecture activities and events that occur within this School across all years, as well as considerable exposure to art practice because the AVA building is shared with the art students who exhibit regularly in the AVA gallery.

Our campus is on a direct line to central London so that visits to design studios and exhibitions can be easily integrated into our programme. Our location in East London is near to contemporary internationally important shopping, transport and trade districts such as Excel, London City Airport, Stratford International and the City. You will be visiting these and using them as sites for research and projects.

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Build core skills for the practice of designing architecture, spaces and products
- Begin to understand the theoretical contexts of architecture, art and design
- Learn about the specialist options available within the field of architecture and design
- Develop a high quality portfolio showcasing your practical and academic skills
- Provide an excellent base for further study in the field of architecture and design

What will you learn?

Knowledge

About a the range of contexts in which designers operate including knowledge of concepts, ideas and techniques at the forefront of design

About the design process in relationship to human well-being and sustainability

About design technology, how things are made including the processes of manufacture and assembly as part of designing

An introduction to architectural, artistic and design culture and history and about their influence and methods and interpretation.

Thinking skills

To use creativity, conceptual skills and judgement to identify human needs and requirements and to invent appropriate solutions to design problems

To analyse, criticise and reflect on your own practice and the practice of others

To communicate your ideas and thought processes through verbal, written and visual representations

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Learn the use of computing and software to assist in design and communication tasks
- To work effectively and independently as an individual or collaboratively to propose realisable, creative and coherent solutions
- To be flexible and adaptable in approaches in the development of design projects
- Manage learning, make use of knowledge, and relate it to wider personal and career goals
- Learn to communicate effectively with a range of audiences with your peer group
-

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Learn the use of computing and software to assist in design and communication tasks
- To work effectively and independently as an individual or collaboratively to propose realisable, creative and coherent solutions
- To be flexible and adaptable in approaches in the development of design projects
- Manage learning, make use of knowledge, and relate it to wider personal and career goals
- Learn to communicate effectively with a range of audiences with your peer group

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels

Level 3 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 120 credits for level 3 followed by 360 credits at levels 4, 5, 6, in either Architecture, Interior Design or Product Design

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is one year full time.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year.

What you will study when

A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take 120 credits per year. Typically this will be comprised of four 30 credit modules. The exact number may differ if the programme is comprised of 15, 45 or 60 credits modules. An honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at level four, modules totalling 120 credits at level five and modules totalling 120 credits at level six.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Distance learning Y/N	Credits	Status*
3	AR3001	Techniques for Design	n	30	Core
3	AR3002	Design: Project	n	30	Core
3	AR3003	History, Theory & Communication	n	30	Core
3	AR3004	Design Media & Representation	n	30	Core

For Level 4, 5 and 6 see the relevant Named Degree Programme

**Please Note – A core module for a programme is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a programme is a module selected from a range of modules available on the programme.*

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an Honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain an Ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher and 120 credits at level five or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level four or higher

In order to gain a Foundation Degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 240 credits including:

A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher

A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher

(A Foundation degree is linked to a named Honours degree onto which a student may progress after successful completion of the Foundation degree)

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree by passing a valid combination of modules to comprise an award and has gained the minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 5 or level 6 on the current enrolment for the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 6, the award classification is determined by calculating;

The arithmetic mean of the best 90 credits at level 6	x	0.8	+	The arithmetic mean of the next best 90 credits at levels 5 and/or 6	x	0.2
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and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100%	First Class Honours
60% - 69%	Second Class Honours, First Division
50% - 59%	Second Class Honours, Second Division
40% - 49%	Third Class Honours
0% - 39%	Not passed

Foundation degree classification

Where a student is eligible for a Foundation degree, the award classification is determined by calculating the credit-weighted arithmetic mean of all marks obtained for modules at level 4 or higher on the current enrolment for the programme and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification;

70% - 100%	Distinction
55% - 69%	Merit
40% - 54%	Pass
0% - 39%	Not passed

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Guided reading
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback
- Online discussions and activities

Thinking skills are developed through

- Reflective activities with feedback
-

- Online discussions and activities

Practical skills are developed through

- IT activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
-

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- The demands of the study medium (e.g. distance learning)
- Planning activities with feedback
- Project work

Assessment

. Knowledge is assessed by

- Coursework
- Essays
- Examinations

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Coursework
- Examinations
- Project work

Practical skills are assessed by

- Practical reports
- Portfolio completion

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- There would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- Adequate resources would be in place;
- The overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- The content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- The programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- The proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- External examiner reports (considering quality and standards);

- Statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- Student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole subject area is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

The external examiner reports for this programme are located on the UEL virtual learning environment (Moodle) on the school notice board under the section entitled 'External Examiner Reports & Responses'. You can also view a list of the external examiners for the UEL School by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminersystem/currentexaminers/>

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations;
- Programme evaluations;
- Polls and surveys online;
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting each semester)

Students are notified of the action taken through:

List the methods that you use e.g.

- Circulating the minutes of the programme committee;
- Verbal feedback to specific groups
- Providing details on the programme noticeboard;

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

The relevance of the education is tested by inviting practising interior, product designers and architects to criticise students work at regularly intervals.

Further information

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- The programme handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/manual/>)
- UEL Quality Manual (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/qualitymanual/>)
- School web pages www.uelarchitecture.org
- School of Architecture Year Book A+D (Architecture + Design)