

# Architecture (ARB/RIBA Part 1)

Please note that this programme specification is currently being revalidated and will be updated by end of July 2014.

<b>Final award</b>	BSc (Hons)
<b>Intermediate awards available</b>	Cert HE, Dip HE
<b>UCAS code</b>	K100
<b>Details of professional body accreditation</b>	Royal Institute of British Architects Architects Registration Board
<b>Relevant QAA Benchmark statements</b>	Architecture
<b>Date specification last up-dated</b>	November 2013 (to take effect September 2014)

## **BANNER BOX:**

The programme is rated excellent for teaching quality and also has the unconditional recognition of the Royal Institute of British Architects and Architects Registration Board giving exemption from RIBA/ARB Part 1.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

300 UCAS tariff points together with at least three subjects at GCSE level, Grade C or above, including English, Maths & Art. IELTS 6.0 no less than 5.5 in any component.

BTEC Art v Design; Interior Design; Construction

GNVQ Art & Design; Construction

ACCESS Art & Design

FOUNDATION Art & Design

Overseas and other qualifications individually assessed

Entry is conditional on an interview over portfolio. We also accept portfolios digitally or by post for assessment.

Conditions may be relaxed for mature students or if the applicant shows other evidence of being particularly able to benefit from the programme.

Students who do not have an arts training at A level usually approach the programme through a year 0 foundation year. A typical student with an arts portfolio at A level will enter the programme in year 1. Students from other schools validated and prescribed by the RIBA and ARB can enter the programme after a completed year 1 or 2 at another school. Students on non prescribed programmes can enter at level 2 only, subject to interview over portfolio and advanced prior learning accreditation for year 1. This mode of entry into the course is not commonly used. The vast majority of students join the programme in year 1. Students

requiring part 1 prescription can only enter the programme in Semester A. Students entering the programme in Semester B may complete modules but will not be offered professional qualifications.

The School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering welcomes applicants with either a science or arts background. A combination of the two is particularly desirable. In selecting students the School looks for evidence of creative potential, enthusiasm for the subject and willingness to work hard.

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?**

**Architecture is the process of understanding people and places and planning and designing, usually buildings. The design process leads to a capability of the building or design to be constructed in a particular context.**

### **Architecture at UEL**

- The Architecture programme at UEL provides the educational framework that enables students to gain exemption from ARB/RIBA Part 1 professional examinations and therefore to progress after sufficient practical experience to part 2. Students are taught in small groups, or studios, under the direction of design tutors. Design studios work autonomously on bespoke programmes lead by the design tutors and supported by Technical, Computing and History & Theory staff. The programme emphasises learning through the process of making and the critical reflection of what has been made. In this way creativity and critical judgement are developed within each student. Students receive personal tuition each week from tutors who are usually also active as practising architects. Most of the learning is done through design project work in the School's excellent studios and workshops. Since the aim is to develop to the full each student's creativity and judgement, the programme is highly demanding.

### **Programme structure**

The programme is only available in full-time mode and as a Single Honours programme.

### **Learning environment**

Some of the learning is through lectures and seminars, and involves reading and writing. The heart of the programme is the design studio where students learn the strategies of architectural design through design project work. The Architecture Subject Area within the School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering is based in the A.V.A building, on the UEL Docklands Campus. As well as excellent studios there are extensive wood, metal and digital fabrication workshops, photographic darkrooms, printing and computer suites. Students also visit study sites and buildings, cities and landscapes in the UK and abroad. At the end of the Academic Year the students exhibit their work at the end of year Summer Showcase.

### **Assessment**

Studio work is assessed within a design portfolio and supporting studies in the form of a bound report. Students receive feedback on their progress throughout the year during tutorials and crits. Final assessment takes place at the end of the academic year. There are no closed book examinations.

### **Work experience/placement opportunities**

Work experience /placements are not required as a part of this programme

### **Project work**

Design teaching is run on the unit system. Teaching is in a mixture of group and individual tutorials based on design project work or contextual and supporting studies

### **Added value**

Successful completion of the programme gives exemption from Part 1 of the ARB Examination. (Exemption from all three parts allows you to register as an Architect with the ARB). The skills of analysis and creative synthesis and of communicating through drawings, words and using IT are useful in many other areas of life and work.

## **IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?**

### **If you are interested in...**

- How buildings and the space around buildings are designed.
- Buildings and cities and how people occupy and use them
- Improving the public realm

### **If you enjoy...**

- Art and science
- Making and Crafting
- Drawing

### **If you want...**

A wide-ranging programme that develops your creativity as well as your judgement.

## **Your future career**

The Programme is the first stage to becoming a qualified architect. It is also good preparation for any work in which you need to be able to analyse problems and propose solutions.

## **How we support you**

Architecture students come from many different educational backgrounds so the first year of the programme is partly diagnostic. It is organised to develop the practical skills an architect needs such as drawing, model making and computer aided design. Each student has a personal tutor whom they meet at least once a week. The tutor is responsible for guiding your academic development and will give personal support if necessary. As most of the teaching and learning is in small groups working along common themes within the design studio, you are also encouraged to learn from fellow students

## **Bonus factors**

Studio staff are usually practising Architects and have considerable up to date knowledge of architecture and design.

Each year there is a study trip and the details of this are explained at a market day at the start of each year. Students get to choose from a variety of exciting countries to study.

We have links with a number of schools in Europe and beyond and can assist students who wish to visit these schools for short periods of study.

## **Outcomes**

### **Programme aims and learning outcomes**

#### **What is this programme designed to achieve?**

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity:

- To develop your creativity and critical judgement

To gain exemption from ARB/RIBA Part 1 professional examinations and therefore to progress after sufficient practical experience to part 2.

#### **What will you learn?**

##### **Knowledge**

- History & Theory of Architecture Art & Design
- Technology of Building
- Building Industry
- Environment and Sustainability
- Regulatory framework in which architecture is produced

##### **Thinking skills**

- Use creativity, conceptual skills and judgement to identify human needs and requirements and to meet or express them spatially.

### **Subject-Based Practical skills**

- Ability to use a range of media (drawing, models, computers, photography, film-making) in analysis and representation to create architectural proposals.
- Experience in physical making and the use of work shop facilities.

### **Skills for life and work (general skills)**

1. Creativity
2. Team working
3. Clarity of analysis in spoken and written words, as well as in drawing and other visual media
4. Use of computers
5. Ability to analyse problems and propose solutions
6. Understanding how things are made

### **Structure**

#### **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. tutorials, study trips, lectures, seminars and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

#### **Credit rating**

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 (120 credits per year).

#### **Typical duration**

The typical duration of this programme is 3 years full-time

## How the teaching year is divided

The programme is organised in three year-long 40 credit modules for each level, which are co-requisite to be studied concurrently.

## What you will study when

The modules of the programme are summarised in the table below

Level	UEL Module Code	TITLE	Skills modules (Insert Y for skills modules)	Credit value	Status
1	AR1101	Architecture, Design Investigation 1		40	Core
1	AR1102	Architecture, Design Resolution 1		40	Core
1	AR1103	Supporting Studies 1 (History and Theory, Technical Studies, Computing and Representation)	Y	40	Core
2	AR2101	Architecture, Design Investigation 2		40	Core
2	AR2102	Architecture, Design Resolution 2		40	Core
2	AR2103	Supporting Studies 2 (History and Theory, Technical Studies, Computing and Representation)	Y	40	Core
3	AR3101	Architecture, Design Investigation 3		40	Core
3	AR3102	Architecture, Design Resolution 3		40	Core
3	AR3103	Supporting Studies 3 (History and Theory, Technical Studies, Professional Studies)	Y	40	Core

## Requirements for gaining an award

To achieve the BSc (Hons) award it is necessary to take and pass all core modules as listed in the table.

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

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three 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 one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher
- **NOTE: An ordinary degree in Architecture does not carry RIBA/ARB Part 1 exemption**

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 one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher

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

### **Degree Classification**

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 2 or level 3 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 3, the award classification is determined by calculating:

$$\frac{\text{The arithmetic mean of the best 100 credits at level 3}}{\times 2/3} + \frac{\text{The arithmetic mean of the next best 100 credits at levels 2 and/or 3}}{\times 1/3}$$

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

### **Assessment**

#### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

##### **Teaching and learning**

Teaching and learning is organised through:

- project work
- programme work
- essay writing

- seminars & tutorials
- lectures

Knowledge, thinking skills, practical skills and general skills are developed through lectures, seminars and tutorials associated with design projects, coursework, and essay and report writing.

### **Assessment**

Knowledge is assessed through its manifestation in course work, design projects and essays.

Thinking skills are assessed through their manifestation in course work, design projects and essays.

Practical skills are assessed through course work and design projects.

Skills for life and work are assessed individually through the ability to produce design projects, coursework and essays, and the ability to explain one's work verbally at reviews and at level three to an external examiner.

### **Quality**

#### **How we assure the quality of this programme**

##### **Before this programme started**

Before the 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 University's Quality Standing Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field 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 University's 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.

### **Listening to the views of students**

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

- Module evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting each semester)
- Personal tutor, module leader, pathway leader, field co-ordinator

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Circulating the minutes of the field committee and the annual quality improvement report
- Verbal feedback to specific groups
- Providing details on the appropriate 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 architects to criticise student work at regular intervals.

The programme is recognised by the Architects Registration Board and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

## **Further Information**

### **Alternative locations for studying this programme**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Which elements?</b>	<b>Taught by UEL staff</b>	<b>Taught by local staff</b>	<b>Method of Delivery</b>
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### **Where you can find further information**

Further information about this programme is available from:

- [The UEL web site](#)
- The student handbook
- Module study guides
- [UEL Manual of Regulations and Policies](#)
- [UEL Quality Manual](#)
- [Regulations for the Academic Framework](#)
- [School web pages](#)
- School of Architecture Year Book
  
- [Current External examiners](#)
- External examiner reports (available from UEL virtual learning environment (UELPlus or Moodle))