

Plymouth University

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

School of Architecture Design and Environment

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Architecture (0114)

Note: This document should also be read in conjunction with the BA (Hons) Architectural Studies Programme Specification appendix document.

Date

November 2018

Date of Approval	November 2008
Year of First Intake	September 2009
Year of First Award	July 2012
Revised	August 2011, November 2011, December 2011, December 2012, November 2014, June 2015, July 2016, July 2016, June 2017.

1. **Final Award:** BA (Hons) Architecture
Level 5 Intermediate award title: Diploma in Higher Education
UCAS code K100
JACS code

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth
Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting bodies**

The programme carries Architects' Registration Board (ARB) Part 1 Prescription and Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Part 1 Validation.

Summary of specific conditions/regulations

This professionally accredited Programme is aimed at students who wish to either become architects, or undertake a career in an architecture related discipline. The BA Honours Architecture programme is Part 1 of the three parts of study that accumulate to the professional qualification of Architect. This conforms to the currently accepted pattern of full-time architectural education:

- BA Honours Architecture: 3 years full-time (RIBA Part 1 exemption)
- 1 year (minimum) work placement in practice
- Masters in Architecture (M.Arch): 2 years full-time or three years part-time (RIBA Part 2 exemption)
- 2 years (recommended) work placement / CAPP (RIBA Part 3 exemption)

Date of re-accreditation

Course validated by our professional bodies until 2022.

4. **Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

Students entering the BA (Hons) Architecture programme benefit from:

1. The programme fully integrates four key elements at each Level: Design Studio, Critical Context, Technology and Communications. The three elements Critical Context, Technology and Communications engage with Design Studio work together to mutually feed into and support each other
2. Lecturing within the Design Studio by nationally and internationally recognised practitioners as well as teaching in the school by local practitioners with an expertise in the region.
3. Teaching within the Design Studio by nationally and internationally recognised full-time staff engaged in research and practice.
4. Teaching by full-time research-active staff with an internationally recognised expertise in cultural theory including themes of: alternative practices, phenomenology, place and identity, and urbanism, digital media and representation, and sustainability.

5. Weekly Design-Studio led skills based workshops throughout all Levels.
6. Designated studio space for students on all Levels of the BA (Hons) Architecture programme.
7. Access to workshops including woodworking, metalworking and digital fabrication facilities staffed by full-time technical tutors.
8. Research within the School which both informs and is informed by the content, nature of projects set for students, and teaching methodologies inherent within the programme.
9. The opportunity for students to complete RIBA / ARB Parts 1 and 2 within the school, as well as opportunities for postgraduate study in cognate disciplines such as High Performance Buildings, Integrated Design, Smart Cities and Design.
10. Opportunities for field trips and study visits regionally, nationally, in Europe and further overseas, including Design Studio project work based in the context of the UK and Europe.
11. A learning environment at the School of Art, Design and Architecture offering opportunities for collaborative work and projects with the students and staff in Fine Art, Art and Performance, Graphics and Photography, 3D Design and Humanities.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

1. The programme outcomes are those set out in the RIBA and ARB Part 1 Syllabus for Architecture (revised in Sept. 2014)
2. QAA Benchmarking Statement for Architecture, (2010)
3. On completion of the programme students achieve ARB/RIBA Part 1 recognition.

The quality of the programme as well as its professional validation standards are periodically reviewed by a team of external examiners (2 academics and 2 practitioners) at the end of every year. External examiners review all work of Level 6 students, and a sample of works from Levels 4 and 5. The procedure for external examination follows institutional guidelines, including external examiners' meetings with the Level 6 student cohort, as well as individual interviews with at least 50% of the Level 6 student cohort.

6. Programme Structure

LEVEL 4, semester 1	LEVEL 4, semester 2
Weeks 1-15	Weeks 16-30
DESN401 Design Studio 4.1 20 credits	DESN402 Integrated Design 4.2 40 credits
COMM401 Communication 4.1 20 credits	
TECN401 Technology 4.1 20 credits	HTCC402 Critical Context 4.2 20 credits
LEVEL 5, semester 1	LEVEL 5, semester 2
Weeks 1-15	Weeks 16-30
DESN501 Design Studio 5.1 20 credits	DESN502 Integrated Design 5.2 40 credits
COMM501 Communication 5.1 20 credits	
HTCC501 Critical Context 5.1 20 credits	TECN502 Technology 5.2 20 credits
LEVEL 6, semester 1	LEVEL 6, semester 2
Weeks 1-15	Weeks 16-30
DESN601 Design Studio 6.1 20 credits	DESN602 Integrated Design 6.2 40 credits
COMM601 Professional Studies 6.1 20 credits	
HTCC601 Critical Context 6.1 20 credits	TECN602 Technology 6.2 20 credits

7. Programme Aims

The aims of the BA (Hons) Architecture programme are to challenge and enable students to:

1. Develop and demonstrate their ability for creative and critical thought and judgement in generating the design of buildings and places of the highest calibre.
2. Develop ethical design solutions that are respectful of and responsive to people and their cultural and social traditions.
3. Develop design solutions that are responsive to technology and demonstrate an understanding of structure, construction, environmental design and sustainability.
4. Develop an understanding of the professional skills and responsibilities of design, the economic, legislative and regulatory context including health and safety and design for the disabled.
5. Acquire knowledge, develop strategies for learning and understand research methods.
6. Develop and demonstrate reasoned and coherent written and oral arguments in Design Studio and taught course project work.
7. Develop and demonstrate reasoned and coherent communication of design ideas in Design Studio and taught course project work through visual means (drawings, models, computing and other media).
8. Work together to share knowledge and to develop and articulate an individual critical position relative to a body of contextual and theoretical knowledge identified by the students as important to their development.
9. Acquire strategies for self-improvement and continued learning/research to embed confidence, life skills and transferable skills for their future role as leading professionals.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme intended learning outcomes (LO) respond to the requirements of graduate criteria (GC) and graduate attributes (GA) required by professional validation bodies (ARB/RIBA). The classification of LO also follows professional body regulations.

Stage 4 does not count towards the final award but utilises the ARB/RIBA criteria so students become familiar with the terminology of the professional bodies. Stages 5 and 6 meet all the professional validation requirements, but the scale and complexity of the coursework and design project work increases from Stage 5 to Stage 6.

GC1.	Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements. The graduate will have the ability to:
GC1.1	Prepare and present building design projects of diverse scale, complexity, and type in a variety of contexts, using a range of media, and in response to a brief.
GC1.2	Understand the constructional and structural systems, the environmental strategies and the regulatory requirements that apply to the design and construction of a comprehensive design project.
GC1.3	Develop a conceptual and critical approach to architectural design that integrates and satisfies the aesthetic aspects of a building and the technical requirements of its construction and the needs of the user.
GC2.	Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences. The graduate will have knowledge of:
GC2.1	The cultural, social and intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings.
GC2.2	The influence of history and theory on the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture.
GC2.3	The application of appropriate theoretical concepts to studio design projects, demonstrating a reflective and critical approach.
GC3.	Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design. The graduate will have knowledge of:
GC3.1	How the theories, practices and technologies of the arts influence architectural design.
GC3.2	The creative application of the fine arts and their relevance and impact on architecture.
GC3.3	The creative application of such work to studio design projects, in terms of their conceptualisation and representation.
GC4.	Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process. The graduate will have knowledge of:
GC4.1	Theories of urban design and the planning of communities.
GC4.2	The influence of the design and development of cities, past and present, on the contemporary built environment.
GC4.3	Current planning policy and development control legislation, including social, environmental and economic aspects, and the relevance of these to design development.
GC5.	Understanding of the relationship between people and buildings, and between buildings and their environment, and the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs and scale. The graduate will have an understanding of:
GC5.1	The needs and aspirations of building users.

GC5.2	The impact of buildings on the environment, and the precepts of sustainable design.
GC5.3	The way in which buildings fit into their local context.
GC6.	Understanding of the profession of architecture and the role of the architect in society, in particular in preparing briefs that take account of social factors. The graduate will have an understanding of:
GC6.1	The nature of professionalism and the duties and responsibilities of architects to clients, building users, constructors, co-professionals and the wider society.
GC6.2	The role of the architect within the design team and construction industry, recognising the importance of current methods and trends in the construction of the built environment.
GC6.3	The potential impact of building projects on existing and proposed communities.
GC7.	Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project. The graduate will have an understanding of:
GC7.1	The need to critically review precedents relevant to the function, organisation and technological strategy of design proposals.
GC7.2	The need to appraise and prepare building briefs of diverse scales and types, to define client and user requirements and their appropriateness to site and context.
GC7.3	The contributions of architects and co-professionals to the formulation of the brief, and the methods of investigation used in its preparation.
GC8.	Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design. The graduate will have an understanding of:
GC8.1	The investigation, critical appraisal and selection of alternative structural, constructional and material systems relevant to architectural design.
GC8.2	Strategies for building construction, and ability to integrate knowledge of structural principles and construction techniques.
GC8.3	The physical properties and characteristics of building materials, components and systems, and the environmental impact of specification choices.
GC9.	Adequate knowledge of physical problems and technologies and the function of buildings so as to provide them with internal conditions of comfort and protection against the climate. The graduate will have knowledge of:
GC9.1	Principles associated with designing optimum visual, thermal and acoustic environments.
GC9.2	Systems for environmental comfort realised within relevant precepts of sustainable design.
GC9.3	Strategies for building services, and ability to integrate these in a design project.
GC10.	The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations. The graduate will have the skills to:
GC10.1	Critically examine the financial factors implied in varying building types, constructional systems, and specification choices, and the impact of these on architectural design.
GC10.2	Understand the cost control mechanisms which operate during the development of a project.
GC10.3	Prepare designs that will meet building users' requirements and comply with UK legislation, appropriate performance standards and health and safety requirements.
GC11.	Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning. The graduate will have knowledge of:
GC11.1	The fundamental legal, professional and statutory responsibilities of the architect, and the organisations, regulations and procedures involved in the negotiation and approval of architectural designs, including land law, development control, building regulations and health and safety legislation.
GC11.2	The professional inter-relationships of individuals and organisations involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects, and how these are defined through contractual and organisational structures.

GC11.3	The basic management theories and business principles related to running both an architects' practice and architectural projects, recognising current and emerging trends in the construction industry.
GA1	With regard to meeting the 11 General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2 above, the Part 1 will be awarded to students who have:
GA1.1	Ability to generate design proposals using understanding of a body of knowledge, some at the current boundaries of professional practice and the academic discipline of architecture.
GA1.2	Ability to apply a range of communication methods and media to present design proposals clearly and effectively.
GA1.3	Understanding of the alternative materials, processes and techniques that apply to architectural design and building construction.
GA1.4	Ability to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions in order to make and present sound judgments within a structured discourse relating to architectural culture, theory and design.
GA1.5	Knowledge of the context of the architect and the construction industry, and the professional qualities needed for decision making in complex and unpredictable circumstances.
GA1.6	Ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required for further professional education.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

The admissions criteria for the BA (Hons) Architecture programme are aligned with institutional policy. Further information for applicants is available by contacting directly admissions@plymouth.ac.uk

Entry Requirements for BA (Hons) Architecture	
A-level/AS-level	UCAS tariff 136 points
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	18 Unit BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma DDM (Distinction, Distinction Merit).
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Pass a named Access to Higher Education Diploma with at least 30 credits at merit and/or distinction.
Welsh Baccalaureate	136 points
Scottish Qualifications Authority	136 points
Irish Leaving Certificate	136 points
International Baccalaureate	International Baccalaureate 34 overall plus submit digital portfolio English accepted within Higher Level = 4+ (A1) or 5 (A2/B) Standard Level = 5+ (A1) or 6 (A2/B)

English Requirements	If overseas & not studying English within IB, applicants must have IELTS : 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.
Direct Entry to Level 5	Exceptionally a student may be admitted to Level 5 of the programme, where sufficient evidence of attainment of the entire Level one module learning outcomes is evident. For example, through credits accumulated at another University where the level of attainment indicates honours degree capacity. The achievements of candidates for direct entry to Level 5 of the programme must be such as to satisfy the Admissions Tutor, the Programme Leader or Subject Head of Architecture. Such students may be called for interview before a decision is made. Applications are also welcomed by applicants who may have experiential learning such as experience in architectural practice or related design disciplines, other vocational work or work overseas.
Portfolio submission	The BA (Hons) Architecture programme requires a portfolio as part of the application process. Please follow the advice provided in the BA (Hons) Architecture website by following this link . The academic admissions team may choose to make an offer to an applicant with a lower score than required on the University of Plymouth admissions website, if the applicant demonstrates significant dedication and ability and where relevant suitable experience within the digital portfolio submission.

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

If achieved up to 120 credits but less than 240 credits:
Certificate in Higher Education

If achieved more than 120 credits but less than 360 credits:
Diploma in Higher Education

If achieved 360 credits:
BA (Hons) Architecture

11. Exceptions to Regulations

All the exceptions to regulations are agreed with the programme's professional validation bodies:

1. The final award is calculated from 20% of Stage 5 and 80% of Stage 6 modules.
2. Students must pass all elements of any module with a minimum pass of 40%
3. There is no compensation for any modules
4. All coursework will be submitted on line for assessment but a hardcopy of all coursework must be present in the academic portfolio at the end of the year.

12. Transitional Arrangements

None

13. List of Appendices

Appendix I	Mapping of Learning Outcomes (General Criteria (GC) and Graduate Attributes (GA)).
Appendix II	Directory of Learning Outcomes (General Criteria (GC) and Graduate Attributes (GA)) per Module.
Appendix III	Mapping of Programme Changes (2018) against General Criteria (GC) and Graduate Attributes (GA).