Programme Specification
BSc Architecture   **UCAS Code: K100**
For students entering Part 1 in September 2025   **UFARCHITECT**

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Accreditation	ARB Prescribed and RIBA Validated Part 1 Course
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Architecture

Programme information and content
The programme aims to provide you with the qualifications, BSc and RIBA Part 1, to initiate the process of becoming a fully qualified architect as well as offering transferable academic and personal skills. Students can progress to MArch and RIBA Part 2 and to full qualification with RIBA Part 3. The course offers students opportunities to develop carefully considered approaches to issues related to building and urban design with an emphasis on sustainable cities and societies and the concept of collaborative practice and learning. A carefully considered understanding of location and the wider contexts of architecture will be supported to develop sensitive and appropriate responses. The programme is designed to encourage students to learn architecture in a professional environment with opportunities for collaboration with students and professionals across education in the Built Environment.

Part 1:	Introduces you to architecture and design through Design Studio, the History and Theory of architecture, Construction Technology, Visualisation and Communication and Industry and Practice.
Part 2:	Provides you with the opportunity to develop more sophisticated responses to design issues with an emphasis on more complex building types as well as to specific areas of History, Theory, Communication, Construction, and Practice.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to formulate individual research preferences in Design and Theory. Synthesise design, technology and critical practice in your final design project and dissertation.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Architecture

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements.
2	Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences.
3	Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.
4	Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process.
5	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.
6	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.
7	Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project.
8	Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design.
9	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.
10	The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations.
11	Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
N/A	

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AA1DS1N	Design Studio One	20	4
AA1DS2N	Design Studio Two	40	4
AA1HTI	History and Theory of Architecture: an Introduction	20	4
AA1STI	Construction Technology: an Introduction	20	4
AA1VCA	Visualisation and Communication in Architectural Design: an Introduction	20	4

All modules at Part 1 of the programme are compulsory.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AA2DS3N	Design Studio Three	20	5
AA2DS4N	Design Studio Four	40	5
AA2HTC	History and Theory of Architecture: Buildings and Places	20	5
AA2IPR	Industry and Practice: the Realisation of Projects	20	5
AA2STC	Construction Technology: Core Studies	20	5

All modules at Part 2 of the programme are compulsory.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AA3DS5N	Design Studio Five	20	6
AA3DS6N	Design Studio Six	40	6
AA3HTAN	Dissertation	20	6
AA3REA1	Realisation 1	20	6
AA3REA2	Realisation 2	20	6

All modules at Part 3 of the programme are compulsory.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

The BSc in Architecture is the first stage in a series of steps that lead the student to the professional title 'Architect'. These steps typically include two years working in practice one following the BSc and one following a two year Master's degree in architecture. The final professional examinations take place at the end of the second year in practice.

Half of the credits of the BSc course relate to design modules - which are central to student experience. These modules are delivered in a studio environment that facilitates: group teaching, individual teaching, peer to peer learning, reviews and group verbal feedback. This studio environment is similar to the professional working environment that students will find in practice.

Alongside the design modules, DS1N, DS2N, DS3N, DS4N, DS5N, DS6N, several groups of modules are integrated to provide a balanced overall module diet. Visualisation and Communication provides necessary studio skills and approaches, Construction Technology provides knowledge and approaches to structures, environment, construction and materials, History and Theory provides the tectonic and philosophical contexts to the architecture being produced and studied today, Industry and Practice introduces students to the professional environment of architecture including legal responsibilities, regulations, working processes, teamwork, CV

writing and presentation skills. Alongside these modules a variety of workshops and special events, such as a live structure build, supplement regular teaching. The varied locations of design projects generates a series of site visits and trips.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

The BSc in Architecture is Validated by the Royal Institute of British Architects: RIBA Part 1 and Prescribed by the ARB, Architects Registration Board.

Assessment

The programme is assessed through a combination of portfolio submission, examinations, written assignments including essays and reports, practical work, presentations, projects and fieldwork.

Progression

The University Threshold is that all assessment components of compulsory modules have to be passed at 40%.

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' have been modified to comply with the requirements of the ARB and RIBA. They are as follows:

Part 1

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2 a student must obtain a mark of at least 40% in every module within the 120 credits taken in Part 1. Students who do not obtain a mark of at least 40% in every module within the 120 credits will be permitted one re-sit examination in each module that they obtained a mark below 40%. Students who do not meet the above requirement but gain a University threshold performance at Part 1 may be eligible to transfer to another programme or to leave with a CertHE.

Transferring from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme

Students are able to transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to fulfilling the Part 1 University

Threshold Standard, achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules in the subject to which they wish to transfer, and fulfilling any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

Students who transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must obtain a mark of at least 40% in every module within the 120 credits taken in Part 2. Students who do not obtain a mark of at least 40% in every module within the 120 credits will be permitted one re-sit examination in each module that they obtained a mark below 40%. Students who re-sit examinations at Part 2 and meet the Architecture progression criteria will have their marks in those modules capped at 40% for degree classification purposes in accordance with the University regulations. Students who do not meet the above requirements for progression to Part 3 but gain a threshold performance may be eligible to transfer to another programme or leave with a DipHE.

Part 3

To obtain the BSc (Hons) Architecture degree, a student shall be required to have obtained a mark of at least 40% in every module taken in Part 3. Students who fail one or more of the compulsory modules in Part 3 would be eligible to be reassessed on one occasion provided they had fulfilled at the first attempt the baseline criteria for a classified Honours degree as stipulated by the University's requirement.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees
The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation
70% - 100% First class
60% - 69% Upper Second class
50% - 59% Lower Second class
40% - 49% Third class
35% - 39% Below Honours Standard
0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:
Part 2: one-third
Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in Section 17 of the Assessment Handbook.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £250 to £350 a year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at competitive prices. Total costs will depend significantly on your working practices. Hard copy submissions of drawings, A4, A3, A2, A1, in portfolios will be required as well as interim printing during the development phases of projects.

You will be required to buy a drawing kit on arrival which will cost around £250. You will require a laptop from term 2 of Part 1 - advice on specification will be available.

There are a range of field trips included in the course which are usually provided at a low cost 0 - £20 per trip. It would be sensible to budget for at least two of these trips per academic year. In Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 you will have the opportunity to undertake optional field trips for example to Venice, Rotterdam or Lisbon. The cost, at 2022 prices, will be in the range of £450 > £580.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2024.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BSc Architecture for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26
14 June 2024