

Architecture MA FAQs

Does the course relate to the stages of becoming an architect? What is the difference from the Architecture MA and the Master of Architecture (MArch)?

The Architecture MA is not part of a professionally accredited route. The course is designed to extend the students' creative abilities and enhance their employability and performance as design professionals.

The Master of Architecture (MArch) RIBA/ARB Part 2 course is prescribed by the ARB and validated by the RIBA to give exemption from the second stage of professional education in the United Kingdom. If you are looking for our MArch, please click [here](#) for the course page.

What are the criteria for the portfolio to be included in the application?

As part of the application process, you are required to submit an example of your design work in the form of a digital portfolio. The portfolio should contain a representative sample of your own work demonstrating creative ability and computer skills. This may include architectural design, urban design, or interior design work conducted both in an academic context and in practice. Other art, design or graphic work appropriate to the applicant's previous study and experience – such as photography, film or images of drawing work, painting, models, etc – may also be included.

The portfolio should be submitted via UKPASS as a pdf file – maximum 20MB in size. Alternatively, you may wish to prepare an online gallery (eg Flickr, Vimeo or similar) or a website, and send the necessary link or URL. You are only able to upload one file to the applicant portal, so please ensure that all of the requested documents or separate pages are contained within this one file before you upload it.

Is the course mainly self-directed or is it taught by tutors?

While this is a taught course, it involves a significant element of independent research work driven by the student's own interests, appropriately guided by expert tutors. The course culminates in a Major Thesis Project that can be either design-based or text-based (dissertation).

How many days are students required to attend per week?

Full-time students are expected to attend classes (ie lectures, seminars, workshops, and other

activities) over two full days/week per semester on average. Part-time students are expected to attend one full day/week per semester on average.

When does the academic year usually start and end?

The orientation programme usually takes place in the third week of September, and classes begin the week after. The course stretches over 12 months (24 for part-time students). Final thesis hand-in is at the beginning of the following September. The course effectively ends in mid-September after the exhibition of the MA thesis projects.

Am I expected to sit through any formal exams as part of the assessment for the course?

We don't have formal exams. Each student's progression through the course is assessed through various types of individual outputs (eg portfolio, essay, logbook, presentation, thesis etc) that are designed to meet the specific learning objectives and criteria set for each module. In addition to the internal assessment, students' course work is also evaluated by an External Examiner appointed to the course.

How many credits are there in a full-time and part-time course?

All students must obtain 180 credits in order to be awarded the Architecture MA title. If you take the full-time route, these will be spread across one year. If you study part time, your 'module diet' will comprise 80 credits in the first year and the remaining 100 credits in the second year, when you conduct the Major Thesis Project.

My degree is in another discipline – can I apply for the Architecture MA?

We welcome applications from graduates in architecture and any cognate design discipline (eg landscape architecture, interior architecture, civil engineering etc). Graduates from other disciplines are also encouraged to apply, so long as their work experience shows evidence of design skills and/or other significant visual, practice-based or written work that makes them suitable candidates for the MA programme.

We normally request a Bachelors degree as proof of qualification, although exceptionally we might be able to admit applicants whose extensive experience in practice can be considered equivalent to a degree.

I'm currently completing my Bachelors degree – can I apply for the Architecture MA?

Yes. If your application is deemed to be satisfactory, you may be offered a place in the course conditional on the successful completion of your BA course.

What should I include in the personal statement?

The personal statement is an important part of the application process. The statement is your opportunity to let us know why you are applying to join our course, and what specific aspects of the course content interest you. You should support this with some explanation of what you have done in the past that may make you particularly suitable to study the subject areas of the course. This could include extracurricular activities and achievements through which you have developed skills that may be useful to your studies, as well as to the new postgraduate community you would be part of. Your personal statement should be concise, well-structured and carefully considered, as its overall quality is usually a reflection of the applicant's ability.

What is the level of English language proficiency required for admission to the course?

The entry requirements for our Masters course include an average score of 6.5 in the IELTS English language exam – or equivalent. If your English language level is not quite high enough, you might also take the pre-sessional English course for entry to the Architecture MA. Please visit our [English language requirements page](#) for more information.

What is the application deadline for this program?

There are no official deadlines for postgraduate applications. We urge applicants to please apply as soon as possible. The University of Westminster will continue to process application forms until courses are full or teaching has started. Due to the popularity of some of our courses we do recommend that you apply at least three months before the course starts.

Can I apply for a scholarship?

The University offers a number of scholarships for postgraduate courses. Please be aware that competition for these scholarships is very high. [Click here](#) for details.

Can I visit the Faculty and meet the teaching staff?

You are welcome to attend one of the Information Evenings organised by our University throughout the year. These will allow you to take a closer look at our Faculty, meet the staff, and ask questions about our courses. [Visit our open day page](#) for details of the next information evenings.

If you wish to discuss any particular aspect of the course in more detail, please contact one of the Course Leaders listed on the course home page.