

Portfolio and Interview Guidance - Undergraduate Architecture and Interiors

Q&A with Course Leaders and students for Architecture BA Honours and Interior Architecture BA Honours

1. What happens after I apply?

If your application is successful you will be invited to interview and asked to bring a portfolio with you. We really recommend you take advantage of this opportunity as it is a chance for the course team to meet you, for you to meet them, and for you to see the facilities.

If you can't come to interview, the course team would like you to prepare a portfolio and to upload that using Flickr or a similar file sharing site, and the University will organise an interview using Skype.

2. What is a Portfolio?

"A portfolio is many things to many people, but basically it is a folder or collection of your best and most interesting work put together so we can have a conversation about who you are. At Westminster, we interview people from a huge variety of backgrounds: people doing A Levels, Art Foundations, product design or textile design. We even interview people who do not have an arts or design background who have put together a portfolio themselves, and those are often really interesting." Ro Spankie, Course Leader of Interior Architecture BA Honours

"A portfolio is an inclusive, creative body of work that shows your skills, your inventiveness and your creativity using a range of media." Julian Williams, Course Leader of Architecture BA Honours.

"A portfolio is a body of work that basically expresses your skills, your talent and your creative mind." Marilyn, Interior Architecture BA Honours student

3. What should I include in a Portfolio?

- We like to see sketches and the kind of research you do. We are interested to see how you have taken something you have researched and turned it into an idea. We also like to see finished pieces, so you could include things you have put in for an exam. If you have big models or installations, the best thing to do is to photograph them giving some sense of scale.
- It is important that we see evidence of spatial thinking. This might be drawings you have made of buildings, or spaces that you have visited. They may be drawings of models, or life drawing classes that you may have been to.
- We are not particularly interested in CAD drawings or attempts to do architectural drawings, because you will be learning how to do these on the course.

- If you are organising a Flickr portfolio, think about ordering your work thematically, so include preparatory sketches and final work together. You might want to include some text or words to explain what you have been doing, or the project title.
- We will assess the work against three measures: the level of inventiveness that you have been using in developing the work, your drawing skills, and the range of media that you have been using.

4. What is the Interview like?

- The interview, whether by Skype or in person, will be informal – around 15 minutes long.
- We are interested in finding out why you want to study the subject and what you have done to inform that decision (maybe you have visited buildings or projects, or have met architects and discussed with them what it is like to be an architect and to study architecture).
- You will have a one-to-one interview with a member of the current course team. Everyone is asked:
 - (a) Why do you want to study the subject?
 - (b) Why have you chosen the University of Westminster?
 - (c) Do you have any questions for us?
- Remember that the interview is just as much about you as it is about us. The course team want to meet you, but it's also an opportunity for you to find out if the course is right for you.

5. Any advice?

"I suggest applicants include finished and unfinished work in their portfolios because that shows their thoughts, their ideas and the development behind it, to complete the story of the whole portfolio." Martynas, Architecture BA Honours student

"For the portfolio I would advise that you show a variety of different works and media that you have experimented with, showing that you are capable and skilful. For your interview, just be yourself and don't think about it too much. If you have any questions it is good to ask them during the interview because it shows that you are interested and that you are willing to work for the place." Shaden, Architecture BA Honours student

"In the interview, they want to know about you, and know that the course is right for you, as much as you are right for the course. So just relax, be yourself and show your passion!" Hannah, Interior Architecture BA Honours student