# ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS

**With more than 2,000 students, the University of Westminster is one of the largest providers of built environment education in the country.**

The Department of Architecture provides a unique pedagogy based on a triangulation of teaching, research, and professional engagement, with each element informing the other. We offer our postgraduate students a specialist, but experimental, education grounded in continually extending theoretical and technical knowledge, and the chance to develop their ideas through creative and reflective approaches to their chosen discipline.

Our 110-metre long, galleried, day-lit, architecture studios are situated on the roof of the Marylebone Campus, and host a variety of dynamic courses and a vibrant and experimental studio culture. Our computers have a wide range of specialist graphics and design software. The expertly-staffed Westminster Fabrication Laboratory, completed in September 2017, combines the digital and the analogue, and provides the finest facilities of any school of architecture in central London. The Laboratory is equipped with 3D printing and CNC knife cutting, laser-cutters, large-scale CNC routing and milling, rapid prototyping equipment and robot fabrication; and also has extensive wood-, metal-, and casting workshops, as well as material-testing and environmental laboratories.

We have developed strong links with the various professions and future employers, leading to excellent employment prospects for our students. Our graduates have gone on to work with world class organisations including Zaha Hadid, Wilkinson Eyre, Hopkins Architects, Foster and Partners, and Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners.
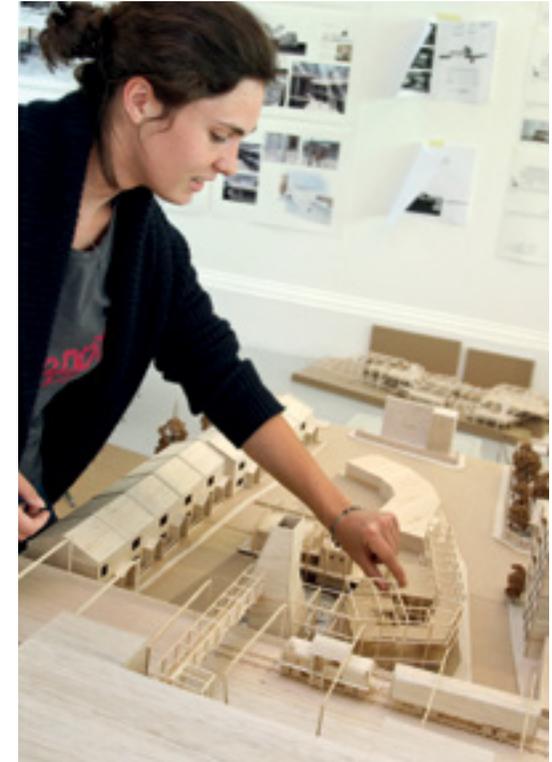




Architecture and the Built Environment at Westminster is ranked among the **top 150** in the world.

Source: QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018

# ARCHITECTURE MA

**Length of course:** one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September
**Location:** Central London (see map p200)
**Fees and funding:** see course web page and **westminster.ac.uk/fees**
**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:
**westminster.ac.uk/architecture-ma**

Situated in the progressive intellectual milieu of central London, the Architecture MA offers a flexible programme of study and a unique opportunity to pursue advanced postgraduate research combining high-level theoretical investigation with innovative design approaches.

The Department of Architecture provides first-class facilities such as state-of-the-art digital design/fabrication equipment and a team of lecturers and researchers deeply immersed in the very latest developments in architectural design, theory, historical research, and technology. The course is part of a suite of Masters aimed at graduates looking to further their education and enhance their employability by acquiring new knowledge and skills.

Focused on architectural research, the course also offers a firm grounding for those seeking to pursue further research and/or an academic career.

## Course content
The Architecture MA is wide-ranging and flexible course, facilitating alternative modes of study and a range of options, including the choice of either a written or design-based thesis. The programme also allows for specialism through its three designated pathways: Architecture (Cultural Identity and Globalisation); Architecture (Digital Media) and Architecture (History and Theory). Alternatively, you can also create your own pathway, under the heading Architecture MA, by selecting and combining relevant modules that meet your individual requirements.

The range of optional and specialist modules offered allows you to develop your individual learning trajectories through the in-depth study of specific subject areas, involving theoretical components as well as practical applications.

A series of theory rich modules will stimulate you to analyse current trends in architecture, design theory and practice on the basis of your research and critical judgement, and use these insights to produce high quality written work in a scholarly manner. In parallel, a set of design-oriented activities encourages you to develop your artistic, aesthetic and intellectual vision through the use of different media, in order to produce individual proposals with a high level of spatial, material and formal resolution.
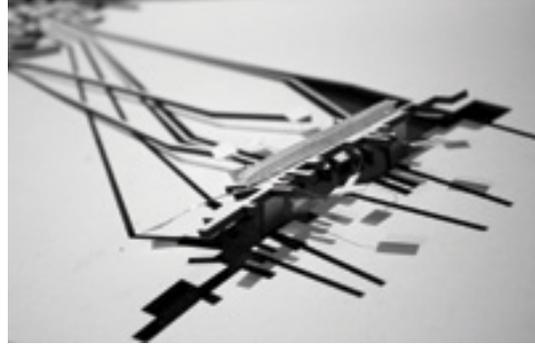


Maryam Masoudi, student work

## Core modules
• Research and Positioning
• Thesis Development and Major Thesis Project

## Option modules
**Semester One:**
• Critical Issues in Architecture
• Programming and Computational Design
• Theories of Identity
**Semester Two:**
• Applied Animation
• City Cultures: Conceptual Design for Complex Cultural Contexts
• Ethnographic Ways of Knowing: Critical and Creative Explorations of Site
• Introduction to Design Computing
• Picturing London
• Site and Motion

## Associated careers
The Department of Architecture is consciously international in its educational thinking and academic links, and its graduates are amongst the most sought after anywhere in the world. The flexibility offered within the course is intended to extend your creative abilities and enhance your employability and performance as design professionals. Typical employment destinations for Architecture MA graduates include architectural practice but also other design disciplines, media and the arts. The course may also form a platform for continuing study with a career in academia or research.

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# ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN MSc

**Length of course:** one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September
**Location:** Central London (see map p200)
**Fees and funding:** see course web page and **westminster.ac.uk/fees**
**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:
**westminster.ac.uk/architecture-and-environmental-design-msc**

The global environmental and energy challenge facing current and future generations of architects and building professionals calls for a deeper understanding of the principles of environmental design, and their effective application into architectural practice worldwide. Over the last decades, environmental design as a subject area has developed, responding to new research and experimentation, both in academia and in practice. However, buildings claiming to be environmentally conscious do not perform to the expected standards, still heavily contributing to global $CO_2$ emissions and often providing unsatisfactory comfort conditions to occupants.

The same can be said for the existing built environment which is largely outdated and underperforming, requiring urgent implementation of effective retrofit strategies. This is due to a lack of comprehensive performance prediction and feedback protocols, which are still not common practice in architectural design.

## Course content
On this course, you will take a fresh critical look at this subject. Here you will gain the knowledge and tools to make informed design decisions based on post-occupancy feedback and performance analysis, towards a new paradigm of environmental architecture, which is environmentally and energy conscious, yet sensitive to the contextual and socio-cultural landscape we live in.

You will learn environmental design methods which relate to the various stages of architectural design. You will be able to evaluate existing buildings and design new ones following a combined bioclimatic and building occupant-focused approach. In the core design modules you will follow an evidence-based design approach where the acquisition of specialised software and analytical tools will be directly applied to an evaluation or design project.

This interdisciplinary and international course will provide you with skills that can be applied to diverse building typologies and global climatic, environmental and contextual issues. On completion of this course you will have a thorough understanding of the principles and methodology of environmental design and will develop critical thinking skills to challenge established practices. You will hold the knowledge and the practical tools to better understand existing buildings for retrofit and to design new ones – positively driving change in this field and moving towards a truly environmentally conscious architecture.
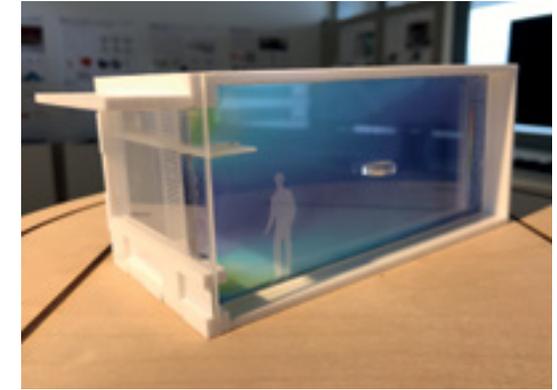


The course covers both the wider contextual and sustainable approach to environmental design, and the more technical aspects of environmentally and energy conscious building design and performance. As well as taught modules, you will take design-based modules where you will apply quantitative and qualitative analysis to the study of existing built environments and to new design projects.

## Core modules
**Semester One:**
• Evaluation of Built Environments
• Principles of Environmental Design
• Theory and History of Environmental Design
**Semester Two:**
• Environmental and Energy Modelling
**Semester Two and Three:**
• Thesis Project

## Associated careers
This course will give you skills which can be used both in architectural practice and in environmental design consultancy. The research issues explored in your final thesis project could also lead to further research and an academic career through the path of a PhD degree in a number of related fields.

# INTERIOR DESIGN MA

**Length of course:** one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September
**Location:** Central London (see map p200)
**Fees and funding:** see course web page and **westminster.ac.uk/fees**
**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:
**westminster.ac.uk/interior-design-ma**

This course promotes a dynamic and speculative approach to the design of interior spatial environments and values research that seeks to challenge traditional methodologies.

It gives you the opportunity to pursue your particular issues of interest in interior design or specialist areas of three dimensional design, through concise and focused study.

## Course content
You will cover a range of issues, both theoretical and practical. Design modules deal with contemporary issues in a variety of interior design typologies, including retail, exhibition, gallery, performance and speculative efforts broadly described as installation.

Careful studies are made in the pursuit of a fresh approach to their design resolution, through analogous and figurative studies, as well as comparison using suitable contemporary exemplars. The thesis can be undertaken as a design project, a dissertation or a piece of research – effectively a hybrid, both a project and a written summary or theoretical proposition.

## Core modules
• Decoding the Interior
• Interior Design Case Study
• Introduction to Design Computing
• Major Thesis Project
• Retail Design
• Thesis Development

## Associated careers
Former graduates from the Interior Design MA practise in a variety of areas of design. These include interior design, exhibition design, set and lighting design, retail and product design, and interior conservation, as well as multidisciplinary and traditional architectural and design practice. The MA may also form a platform for continuing study with a career in academia or research.

For students who take the course and are interested in further study, we offer suitable applicants the opportunity to study for an MPhil/PhD degree, not only through the traditional research mode, but also through a PhD by design route.

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# MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
## (MARCH) (RIBA PT II)

**Length of course:** one year full-time, starting in September
**Location:** Central London (see map p200)
**Fees and funding:** see course web page and **westminster.ac.uk/fees**
**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:
**westminster.ac.uk/master-of-architecture-riba-part-2**

The Master of Architecture (MArch) (ARB/RIBA Part II) is a long-established and highly regarded course that is prescribed by the ARB and validated by the RIBA to give exemption from Part II examination. The emphasis of the course is on innovative design work, and on developing a sensitive and critical approach to the study and practice of architecture.

The course fosters diversity of choice, interpretation and approach, whether in design work or research. The former focuses on sophisticated design projects (in formal, technical, programmatic and urban terms) that demand analytical rigour, criticality and aesthetic resolution. The latter focuses on a major dissertation, an extended piece of academic research into architecture's historical and theoretical contexts. Both design and research-based work offer students the opportunity to engage in specialised areas of enquiry and creative experimentation.

## Course content
Year 1 of the MArch serves as an experimental and conceptual foundation for Year 2, when students' projects begin to cohere, deepen, and move towards sophisticated resolution. The elective MArch design studios offer a breadth of thematic and methodological opportunity. Each studio, in each year of the MArch, embarks on an international field trip which – through rigorously developed itineraries – immerse students not only in particular sites of architectural interest and relevance, but commonly also in collaboration with organisations, events, groups and individuals with local knowledge, deepening the experience and understanding gained. The design studios are run by leading academics and practitioners, all of whom are involved in their own inspiring and innovative architectural research and practice. The dissertation allows the intellectual exploration of a field of enquiry of interest to students and deepens their understanding of the complex contexts within which architecture is produced, perceived and appreciated. Ultimately, it is their critical view on the value and meaning of architecture that students are asked to research, articulate, and defend.

The professional studies, technology, and digital design related areas of teaching are diverse in content and nature. They do, however, have a common goal: to develop a critical and innovative approach rather than one of compliance and instrumentality. This approach is taken to provide graduates with the skills to not only prosper in practice, but to help develop and enhance it.

## Core modules
**Year 1:**
• Architectural Productions I (Design and Research 1, Design and Research 2)
• Architectural Reflections I (Digital Design, Critical Practice, Applied Technical Studies 1, History and Theory)

**Year 2:**
• Architectural Productions II (Design Hypothesis, Design Thesis)
• Architectural Reflections II (Dissertation, Applied Technical Studies 2, Strategic Report)

## International Exchange Opportunities
**The MArch course currently has two exchange partnerships in place. These are with:**
• The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
• École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris la Villette, Paris, France

The exchange takes place during Semester 2 in Year 1 of the MArch, allowing incoming students to settle into the course during Semester 1 before engaging in a period of creative, intellectual and intercultural exchange.

## Associated careers
Most students who complete the Master of Architecture with ARB/RIBA Part 2 exemption progress to working in architectural practice and, subsequent to taking the Part 3 Examination, become registered architects. Some graduates progress to take Masters or PhD degrees, leading to research and/or teaching positions. Students on the MArch are offered the opportunity to apply for paid undergraduate teaching positions as part of a Peer Assisted Learning programme. In addition to enriching student experience and employability, the skills gained from teaching extend the core transferrable skills gained from taking MArch modules.

Our students are highly employable, with feedback indicating that employers appreciate not only the creativity and critical thought our graduates bring, but also their understanding of how to situate creative ideas in practice in order to pursue them in the most effective manner. The MArch has a large practice network and wherever possible draws upon industry links to provide students with access to practices, whether through lectures, studio reviews, networking opportunities or direct job opportunities.

# ARCHITECTURE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (RIBA PART III)

**Length of course:** one year part-time, starting in September
**Location:** Central London (see map p200)
**Fees and funding:** see course web page and **westminster.ac.uk/fees**
**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:
**westminster.ac.uk/architecture-pg-pte-diploma-professional-practice-riba-part-3**

This third and final adjunct of architectural education is designed to take place during the second period of mandatory practical training after the completion of the Part 2.

The course can be completed in 12 to 24 months, according to employment circumstances. Graduates of the course receive a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture and can apply for registration with ARB, and for Chartered membership of the RIBA.

## Course content

The Diploma is the final part of an architectural student's professional training and the culmination of a minimum of seven years' education and professional development.

The content of the course and each module build on the professional experience and knowledge that you will have gained over this period.

## Core modules

• Architectural Practice Management
• English Law, Regulations, Contracts and Procurement
• Professional Case Study
• Professional Development and Experience

## Associated careers

The Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture is a professional qualification leading to registration as an architect with ARB and professional membership of the RIBA.

Students who have successfully completed the course have obtained senior positions or taken greater responsibility in architectural practice, developed their own architectural practice, and also gone on to work overseas. Former students have also developed specialism in construction law.

The Diploma may also form a platform for continuing study in academia and research and may lead to study for an MPhil/PhD degree.