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 School of Architecture and Cities 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, experimental education grounded in continually extending theoretical and technical knowledge, and the chance to develop your ideas through creative and reflective approaches to your 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, a photography studio and XR-Lab for 3D scanning, AR and VR.

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.

The course has been amazing and challenging; I have developed many different skills in design. The tutors kept me focused and helped unlock my true potential. For my thesis project, I was given complete freedom and was able to reach a higher level of research in my area of interest. I am confident in my career prospects.

Tobi Agunbiade, Interior Design 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 fabritcation 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**

- **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 a design professional. 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 but also other design disciplines, media and the arts.

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

**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 CO₂ 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**

- **Core modules**
  - Environmental and Energy Modelling, Environmental and Energy Modelling
  - Theory and History of Environmental Design
- **Option modules**
  - Environmental and Energy Modelling, Environmental and Energy Modelling
  - Theory and History of Environmental Design
- **Associated careers**

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, Principles of Environmental Design
  - Thesis Project
- **Associated careers**

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.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/architecture-and-environmental-design-msc
Our Interior Design MA promotes a conceptual and speculative approach to the design of interior environments. In doing so, it places an emphasis on research that seeks to expand the boundaries of the discipline as well as challenge standardised processes and traditional methodologies. The programme affords multiple avenues of creative engagement giving you the opportunity to pursue your particular interests in interior design, or specialist areas of three-dimensional design, through in-depth and focused studies, under the guidance of research-active and industry-experienced staff. Over the years, the course has continued to grow and is now an internationally sought-after Masters programme that sits within the new School of Architecture and Cities, based at our well-equipped central London campus.

**Course content**

Our Interior Design MA course covers a range of specialist areas, both theoretical and practical. The curriculum is delivered through a diverse set of taught core modules including interior design and theory subjects, as well as the student-led thesis project.

We also deliver specialist modules that promote the use of digital technologies to expand your skill set. With a critical pedagogical agenda we challenge students to strive for a rich, mature synthesis of their learning from these modules, a process aimed to prepare you towards the challenges and opportunities of the complex professional world.

**Associated careers**

Former graduates from the Interior Design MA practise in a variety of areas of design. These include interior design, retail design, exhibition design, set and lighting design, 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 professional studies, technology, and digital design, 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.

**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 the 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 course focuses on contemporary 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 a 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 – immerses 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 1 (Design and Research 1, Design and Research 2)
- Architectural Reflections 1 (Digital Design, Critical Practice, Applied Technical Studies 1, History and Theory)

Year 2:

- Architectural Productions 2 (Design Hypothesis, Design Thesis)

**Associated careers**

Most students who complete the Master of Architecture with ARB/RIBA Part II exemption progress to working in architectural practice and, subsequent to taking the Part III 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.

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

This is a 12-month course, but with an option to self-defer the work-based modules (Professional Case Study and Professional Development) for a further six or twelve months depending on 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.

**Length of course:** one year part-time, starting in September

**Location:** Central London (see map p196)

**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