



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MArch Architecture

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

March 2018

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	<i>MArch Architecture</i>
Final Award	<i>MArch Architecture</i>
Exit Awards	
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C2378F, C2378P</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time, Part time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>2 year full-time, 4 years part-time</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>September 2019 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Creative and Cultural Industries</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Architecture</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	http://www.port.ac.uk/portsmouth-school-of-architecture/
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/march-architecture
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>Architects Registration Board (ARB), Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)</i>
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<i>Level 7</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Module Web Search](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

General Aims:

The MArch Architecture programme aims to:

- Foster an enquiring spirit, intellectual curiosity and speculation, and a diversity of creativity in students. These coupled with the development of their own learning skills will enable students to reflect on and affect the direction of their future creative lives and their own academic and career development needs.
- Maintain a distinctive, challenging and stimulating postgraduate study environment that enables every student to attain as high a level of personal development as can be achieved.
- Equip graduates with transferable skills such as problem solving, decision-making, critical appraisal, communication, and teamwork, necessary for lifelong learning and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.

Particular Aims:

The MArch Architecture programme aims to:

- Provide a professional course leading to a career as an architect, which meets the requirements for accreditation by the ARB/RIBA.
- Provide a broad, coherent and integrated education in architecture.
- Provide knowledge of the extensive subject area of Architecture, and an understanding of design and environmental technology, cultural context, communication skills, management practice and law.
- Provide, through postgraduate options, studies of specialist areas of the curriculum that are of current interest to staff, students and the profession; and which may lead to later opportunities in terms of research and higher degrees.
- Encourage critical self-determination in students' studies in order to empower them with a confidence in their own theoretical position and creative abilities that will sustain them in their professional future.
- Encourage the development of design skills, from a detail to an urban scale, in formal response to the social and cultural problems of the world, that aim to contribute to the enhancement of the human experience.
- Foster a concern for the conservation of natural resources through the development of appropriate formal and technical responses to global issues such as climate change and sustainable cities.
- Develop modules and other activities which promote collaboration with the CCI faculty's other departments, to foster the development of artistic skills and encourage poetic qualities in the work of our students that lie beyond the minimum levels of competence.
- Encourage engagement with the social and cultural dimensions of architecture facilitating individual positioning as a global citizen.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	<i>Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process. (GC4)</i>	<i>Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials</i>	<i>Formative: Studio review</i> <i>Summative: portfolio</i>
A2	<i>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. (GC5)</i>		
A3	<i>Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project. (GC7)</i>		
A4	<i>Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design. (GC8)</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, individual and group activities</i>	<i>Formative: studio review</i> <i>Summative: portfolio, reports</i>
A5	<i>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. (GC9)</i>		

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	<i>Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements. (GC1)</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials</i>	<i>Summative: Portfolio, written essays, dissertation</i>
B2	<i>Analyse problems, and use innovation, logical and lateral thinking in their solution. Be flexible and adaptable in the approach to and development of an issue, problem or opportunity.</i>		

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	<i>Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences. (GC2), and knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design (GC3).</i>	<i>Lectures, group work and independent learning.</i>	<i>Summative: presentations, essays, dissertation</i>
C2	<i>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. (GC6)</i>	<i>Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials</i>	<i>Formative: studio review</i> <i>Summative: portfolio</i>
C3	<i>Understand the conventions of architectural representation and apply them to two dimensional and three-dimensional graphics and to computer generated and physical models. Use visual, verbal and written communication methods and appropriate media</i>	<i>Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials optional tutor</i>	<i>Summative: presentations and written work</i>

	<i>(including sketching, modelling, digital and electronic techniques) to represent the testing, analysis and critical appraisal of complex design proposals and their resolution to a range of professional and lay audiences.</i>	<i>led sessions and online tutorials.</i>	
C4	<i>The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations. (GC10)</i>	lectures, seminars, group and individual work.	Formative: Studio review
C5	<i>Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning. (GC11)</i>		Summative: reports, presentations, portfolio

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	<i>Generate complex design proposals showing understanding of current architectural issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, where appropriate, to test new hypotheses and speculations (GA.1)</i>	<i>independent self-directed learning, developed through studio based learning and group work</i>	<i>Summative: essays, dossiers, portfolios, presentations</i>
D2	<i>Apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, critically appraise and explain design proposals and evaluate materials, processes and techniques that apply to complex architectural designs and building construction, and to integrate these into practicable design proposals (GA.2&3)</i>		
D3	<i>critically understand how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design (GA.4)</i>	<i>Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials and formal review.</i>	<i>Formative: studio review</i> <i>Summative: portfolio, reports and presentations.</i>
D4	<i>understand the context of the architect and the construction industry, including the architect's role in the processes of procurement and building production, and under legislation (GA.5)</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars</i>	<i>Summative: Reports, portfolio, presentations</i>
D5	<i>demonstrate problem solving skills, professional judgment, and ability to take the initiative and make appropriate decisions in complex and unpredictable circumstances and an ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required to prepare for qualification as an architect. (GA.6&7)</i>	<i>Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials and formal review.</i>	<i>Formative: studio review</i> <i>Summative: portfolio, reports and presentations.</i>

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides access to:

CCI Creative Careers: Support to add degree-related and relevant work experience for CV building including a work placement year, summer or short internships and part-time work.

CCI Creative Skills: One to one support sessions and group tutorials in creative software and skills relevant to CCI courses and future careers.

CCI Academic Skills: Access to resources to support learning strategies and techniques through one to one tutorials or group workshops.

CCI Student Support Advisor: Help to find appropriate academic, pastoral or practical support.

Specialist equipment and facilities relevant to the course.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Education Strategy 2016 - 2020](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Architecture, \(GC1.1\) = General Criteria, \(GTA2.1\)=Graduate Attributes, which includes the requirements of the Professional Bodies: the European Union \(EU\) Directive, The Architects Registration Board \(ARB\) Criteria and The Royal Institute of British Architects \(RIBA\) Criteria.](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **Architects Registration Board, Royal Institute of British Architects**
- [The Architects Registration Board \(ARB\) General Criteria and Graduate Attributes for Part 2](#) (GA)
- Recommendations of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Visiting Board June 2015, gave "continued validation". Next validation due June 2020.
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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