COURSE SPECIFICATION

MArch Architecture

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

July 2021

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	MArch Architecture
Final Award	MArch Architecture
Exit Awards	
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P2378FTC, C2378F P2378PTC, C2378P
Mode of study	Full time, Part time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	2 year full-time, 4 years part-time
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2021 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Creative and Cultural Industries
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Architecture
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	_Portsmouth School of Architecture_
Course webpage including entry criteria	_MArch Architecture_
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	Architects Registration Board (ARB), Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 7

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 Course and Module Catalogue 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 changing professional, social and political context.

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 and an understanding of and environmental/constructional/structural technology, sustainability, communication skills, management practice and law.
- Provide knowledge of the extensive subject area of architecture and an understanding of architectural design and its engagement with the social, the cultural, the political, the environmental matters of concern of lived experience.
- Provide 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 the urban scale to the architectural detail, in formal interaction with the social and cultural issues of the world, that aim to contribute to the enhancement of lived 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 catastrophe, and to the developing debate and knowledge on architectural responses and responsibilities.
- Develop models and other activities which promote interdisciplinary collaboration, to foster the development of different perspectives and skills and encourage poetic qualities in the work of our students that exceed 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	Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process. (GC4)	Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials	Formative: Studio review Summative: portfolio
A2	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)		
A3	Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project. (GC7)		
A4	Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design. (GC8)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, individual and group activities	Formative: studio review Summative: portfolio, reports
A5	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)		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements. (GC1)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials	Summative: Portfolio, written essays, dissertation
B2	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.		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	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).	Lectures, group work and independent learning.	Summative: presentations, essays, dissertation
C2	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)	Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials	Formative: studio review Summative: portfolio
C3	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 (including sketching, modelling, digital and	Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials optional tutor led sessions	Summative: presentations and written work

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
	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.	and online tutorials.	
C4	The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations. (GC10)	Lectures, seminars, group and individual work.	Formative: Studio review

Summative: reports, presentations, portfolio |
| C5 | Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning. (GC11) | | |

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	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)	independent self-directed learning, developed through studio-based learning and group work	Summative: essays, dossiers, portfolios, presentations
D2	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)		
D3	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)	Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials and formal review.	Formative: studio review

Summative: portfolio, reports and presentations. |
| D4 | 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) | Lectures, seminars | Summative: Reports, portfolio, presentations |
| D5 | 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) | Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials and formal review. | Formative: studio review

Summative: portfolio, reports and presentations. |

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 Strategy
- 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: **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 April 2021, gave "continued validation". Next validation due TBC.
- 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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Document details

Author	*Paula Craft-Pegg, Phevos Kallitsis*
Date of production and version number	*01 July 2018 v1.0*
Date of update and version number	*13/09/2021 v3.0*
Minimum student registration numbers	*12*