COURSE SPECIFICATION

Master of Architecture and Professional Practice (DA)

Architect Degree Apprenticeship

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

July 2021

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	*Master of Architecture and Professional Practice (DA)*
Final Award	*MArch Architecture* *Master of Architecture and Professional Practice (DA)*
Exit Awards	
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	*P2894PDC, C2894P*
Mode of study	*Part time*
Mode of delivery	*Campus*
Normal length of course	*4 years part-time*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*September 2019 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	*Architecture Degree Apprenticeship (Master of Architecture and Professional Practice (DA))*
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

The Master of Architecture and Professional Practice (DA) Course is designed to meet the Institute for Apprenticeships (IFA), Architect (Degree) Standards.

The educational aims of this Course include the requirements of the IFA Standards, and encompass the Educational Aims and Learning Outcomes of the Master of Architecture (Part 2) and Final Examination in Professional Practice (Part 3) Courses. Students undertaking this Course will receive the Master of Architecture award on successful completion of the required modules. Students should refer to the Course Specification Documents for the Master of Architecture (Part 2) Course and the Final Examination in Professional Practice (Part 3) , in addition to the documents for this Course.

The general aims of the Architect Level 7 Degree Apprenticeship (DA) (RIBA Parts 2&3)

- To provide an integrated approach to developing and assessing skills, knowledge and behaviours across a range of units within the Architect Integrated degree apprenticeship programme.
- To provide a framework allowing apprenticeship students to follow a flexible coherent programme of study whilst gaining experience in their work-based environment.
- To maintain a distinctive postgraduate level of education that enables every student to attain as high a level of personal development as can be achieved.
- To provide a challenging and stimulating learning environment within the teaching sessions involving a variety of design and delivery.
- To utilise the apprentices' experiences gained in the work-based environment by incorporating the philosophy of experiential learning using real work-based issues.
- To provide a supportive online knowledge and skill-based learning accessible by Moodle providing flexibility in terms of depth of learning but to facilitate time-management for the apprentice.
- To develop critical and evaluative skills in researching and applying academic concepts and ideas.
- To provide apprenticeship students with the opportunity to develop and enhance a range of general transferable intellectual and study skills.
- To develop technical and work specific skills underpinned by academic learning and theory.
- To develop apprenticeship students' design skills and developing collaborative relationships.
- To equip apprenticeship students with the necessary 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.
- To provide apprentices students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career opportunities.
- To encourage apprenticeship students to develop their professional identity.
- To equip the apprenticeship students to become effective and responsible global citizens.
- To encourage continuous learning and development using ongoing summative and formative assessments/feedback, reflection and personal development action plans.
- To support and encourage apprenticeship students to engage in independent study.
- To enable apprenticeship students to address the legal, procedural, professional and managerial competencies needed to engage in architectural practice as an independent and reflective practitioner.

Particular Aims for the Master of Architecture (Part 2) Course:

- 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.

- 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.

Particular Aims for the Final Examination in Professional Practice (DA) Course (RIBA Part 3):
- Provide a professional examination, in accordance with Professional Body requirements, to allow students to gain the award of "Final examination in Professional Studies" which has exemption from RIBA Part 3 and on successful completion of which, with both RIBA parts 1 and 2 having been achieved, they may register as an architect.
- Provide a coherent and integrated series of lectures and seminars in the area of professional practice in relation to current architectural practice in the UK enabling students to enter and contribute to architectural practice.
- Provide knowledge of the extensive subject area of Architectural management practice and the law relating to this subject.
- Develop the transferable skills necessary to demonstrate self-direction and originality in problem solving, to be able to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level.
- Develop the students' ability to reflect on their own and others functioning in order to improve practice.
- Develop the confidence of the students to enable them to operate in complex and unpredictable situations whilst having an overview of good practice, with due regard to the ethical, social and managerial demands of current practice.

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.

N.B. Programme Learning Outcomes are cross referenced as shown in the following key:

KEY:

LOs for the Architect (DEGREE) Apprenticeship Standards are derived from the above Benchmark Statement for Architecture which specifically sets out the QAA/ARB/RIBA Professional Criteria at Parts 2 & 3, redefined as:

(K) Knowledge, (S) Skills and (B) Behaviours = Architect (DA) Standards

The Learning Outcomes for MArch Architecture (Part 2) are derived from the above Benchmark Statement for Architecture which specifically sets out the QAA/ARB/RIBA Professional Criteria at Part 2.

(GC) = General Criteria: Architecture Subject Benchmark Statement/ARB Criteria at Part 2 Approved: January 2010 Effective From: 2011/2012

(GA) = Graduate Attributes: Architecture Subject Benchmark Statement/ ARB Criteria at Part 2 Approved: January 2010 Effective From: 2011/2012

The Learning Outcomes for Part 3 are derived from the above Benchmark Statement for Architecture which specifically sets out the QAA/ARB/RIBA Professional Criteria at Part 3.

(PC1) = Professional Criteria: Architecture Subject Benchmark Statement 2010 /ARB Criteria. Approved: January 2010 Effective From: 2011/2012

Level 7   Master of Architecture (Part 2) Learning Outcomes:

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. (K4) (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. (K5, S5) (GC5) | | |
| A3 | Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project. (K7, S7) (GC7) | | |
| A4 | Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design. (K8, S8) (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. (K9, S9) (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. (K1, S1) (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 (K2, S2, K3, S3) (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. (K6, S6, K12, S12, K13, S13) (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 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.	Studio based learning, group and individual tutorials optional tutor led sessions and online tutorials.	Summative: presentations and written work
C4	The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations. (K10, S10) (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. (K11, K15, K16) (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.

Level 7   Final Examination in Professional Practice (Part 3) (DA) Learning Outcomes:

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
P3-A1	Professionalism (PC1) (K12, S12, K13, S13) (B1, B2, B5, B6, B7) - A successful candidate will demonstrate overall competence and the ability to behave with integrity, in the ethical and professional manner appropriate to the role of architect. The candidate will have the skills necessary to undertake effective communication and presentation, organisation, self-management and autonomous working. The candidate will have a clear understanding of the architect's obligation to society and the profession, and a sufficient awareness of the limits of their competence and professional experience to ensure they are unlikely to bring the profession into disrepute.	Lectures, seminars, workshops, external expert input, group work, independent research	Coursework, formal written examinations and oral examination
P3-A2	Clients, Users and delivery of services (PC2) (K6, S6, K7, S7, K13, S13) (B3, B4) - A successful candidate will be able to demonstrate understanding of the range of services offered by architects and delivering those services in a manner prioritising the interests of the client and other stakeholders. The candidate will have the skills necessary to provide a competent service, both singly and as part of a team, including understanding of client needs, appropriate communication, programming, coordination and competent delivery. This will be supported by knowledge of the briefing process, forms and terms of appointment, the means of professional remuneration, relevant legislation, and the execution of appropriate programmed and coordinated project tasks.		
P3-A3	Legal Framework and processes (PC3) (K4, S4, K10, S10, K11, S11, K14, S14) A successful candidate will be able to demonstrate understanding of the legal context within which an architect must operate, and the processes undertaken to ensure compliance with legal requirements or standards. The candidate will have the skills necessary to positively interact with statutory and private bodies or individuals, and competently deliver projects within diverse legislative frameworks. This will be supported by knowledge of the relevant law, legislation, guidance and controls relevant to architectural design and construction.		

P3-A4	Practice and Management (PC4) (K15, S15) - A successful candidate will be able to demonstrate understanding of the business priorities, required management processes and risks of running an architectural practice, and the relationship between the practice of architecture and the UK construction industry. The candidate will have the skills necessary to engage in business administration and ability to resource, plan, implement and record project tasks to achieve stated goals, either individually or within a team. This will be supported by knowledge of the nature of legal business entities, office systems, administration procedures and the relevant legislation.		
A5	Building Procurement (PC5) (K16, S16)- A successful candidate will be able to demonstrate understanding of UK construction and contract law, construction procurement processes and the roles of built environment professionals. The candidate will have the skills necessary to plan project-related tasks, coordinate and engage in design team interaction, execute effective contract communication and resolve construction-related challenges and disputes. This will be supported by an understanding of contractual relationships, the obligations upon an architect acting as contract administrator, job-related administrative systems and the management of projects in the context of the candidate's professional experience		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
P3-B1	Evaluate information, opinion and evidence critically and draw conclusions that display methodological and theoretical rigour.	Lectures, seminars, workshops, external expert input, group work, independent research	
P3-B2	Apply strategies of selection for dealing with information.		
P3-B3	Plan, implement and report on a programme of original research.		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
P3-C1	Communication - Produce documentation and reports which are clear, analytical and logical covering a range of issues of culture, theory and design, executed to a professional standard.	lectures, seminars, workshops, external expert input, group work, independent research	Coursework, formal written examinations and oral examination
P3-C2	Professional Studies - Identify and manage individual learning needs so as to prepare for and maintain professional standards commensurate with qualification. (B7)		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Work autonomously in a self-directed manner, managing and appraising their own working practices thereby developing as a reflective practitioner and an independent learner.	lectures, seminars, workshops, external expert input, group work, independent research	Coursework, formal written examinations and oral examination
D2	Work as part of a team.		
D3	Manage independent study.		

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 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**
- The above benchmark statement includes the requirements of the Professional Bodies: The Architects Registration Board (ARB) Criteria and The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Criteria.
- 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**
- In May 2016, the Architects Registration Board (ARB) confirmed that the following qualification should continue to be prescribed under the Architects Act 1997: 'Diploma in Architecture (2 years full-time).' Renewal due September 2021. N.B. the new award Master of Architecture has replaced the Diploma in Architecture from September 2012.
- **The Architects Registration Board (ARB) General Criteria and Graduate Attributes for Part 3**
- Recommendations of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Visiting Board June 2015, gave "continued validation". Next validation TBC.
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards
- Institute for Apprentices, Architect (DEGREE) Standards and EPA

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

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