BA (Hons) Architecture

Programme specification document

Contents

Overview

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath School of Design
Main campus	Locksbrook Campus
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Architecture
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons)

Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE
Routes available	Single
Sandwich year	Yes (NB. Students taking this route cannot count the Professional Placement Year as the year of Professional Practice required for the Part One Architect qualification)
Duration of award	Full-time or Part-time
Modes of delivery offered	campus-based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	Yes
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	Architects Registration Board (ARB) Subject to successful validation of the programme by Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	ARB - January 2024
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	ARB - December 2028
UCAS code	Institution B20, Course AR11 or AR12
Route code (SITS)	ARCSIN/ARCSIN-SW
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Architecture (February 2020)
Date of most recent approval	September 2021
Date specification last updated	January 2025

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Programme/Pathway	Regulations/Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date
BA (Hons) Architecture	Undergraduate Academic Framework	To meet PSRB requirements all modules are core so at levels 5 and 6 students cannot have the 'the opportunity to take 20 credits at each of levels 5 and 6 from outside their degree subject(s)' [section 1.8]	Curriculum Committee, September 2021

Programme Overview

The BA (Hons) Architecture programme explores how architectural design is at the heart of creative, adaptable and climate positive use of space. It focuses on the relationship between conservation, the planning system, the use and reuse of buildings and structures, and the transformation of urban spaces in response to crucial issues such as climate change, biodiversity, health and life safety, and social equity.

You learn about buildings and materials in relation to their sites, and within their historic and future contexts. You also learn to use, and engage with new and emerging technologies, and develop your skills in and understanding of the foundations of architecture (design, drawing, model-making, planning, project management, communication and collaboration).

The majority of the programme is delivered in Design Studio modules where through interdisciplinary project-based learning, you combine theoretical understanding and practical experience with the development of key technical skills. You will explore how to respond to a

brief through design process and critical thinking, and how to communicate your ideas graphically, orally, and through industry specific 2D and 3D software.

The Design Studio projects sit alongside a series of related modules that support your contextual, critical, interpersonal, collaborative and professional development:

● Communications introduces you to the principles and skills required to effectively interpret existing structures and communicate design proposals in portfolio and presentations.

● Architectural Technology allows you to substantiate your design skills with an appreciation of the structural, material, and environmental considerations needed to deliver internal comfort, structural stability, and climate positive design. It also foregrounds the requirements for fire safety, building safety and managing risk at all stages of design and realisation.

● Architectural Practice develops your professionalism, your awareness and understanding of the business of architecture, and how the construction and building industries work.

● Critical Design Studies allows you to explore cultural and contextual histories and theories of architecture, and those of wider design cultures and contexts.

On the BA (Hons) Architecture programme, you develop essential skills in digital and IT, collaboration, business and research, professional practice and network building. You engage with a range of local, regional, national and/or international organisations on real-world projects. You will graduate understanding architecture and design innovation in relation to the complex challenges of climate change, ethical practice, and social purpose.

Subject to the programme being successfully prescribed by the Architects Registration Board (ARB), the BA (Hons) Architecture programme will form the undergraduate degree element of the Part One qualification towards becoming an architect (which also requires one year of professional practice after graduation).

Subject to successful validation of the programme by Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the programme will also enable you to take the first steps to becoming an RIBA Chartered Architect once you hold a RIBA recognised Part One qualification (RIBA Affiliate Membership).

But as a design-focused interdisciplinary course, it is also aimed at students who might want to pursue other careers connected and related to architecture – urban regeneration, conservation, urban planning, interior and spatial design, building survey, regional renewal and regeneration.

Programme Aims

1. To shape practitioners who can generate design proposals using their critical understanding of the academic discipline of architecture, together with an awareness and understanding of current best professional practices in architecture and design.

2. To develop the ability to apply a range of communication methods and media to present design proposals clearly and effectively.

3. To build an understanding of a range of appropriate materials, processes and techniques that apply to architectural design.

4. To nurture the ability to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions in order to make and present sound judgments within a structured discourse relating to architectural history, theory and design.

5. To develop knowledge of the context of the architect and the construction industry, and the professional qualities needed for decision making in unpredictable circumstances.

6. To engender an ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required for further professional education.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	Comprehensively and creatively satisfy the aesthetic functional and technical requirements of a design brief.	Employ iterative and experiment methods to explore and resolve the requirements of a design brief.	Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of a design brief, together with key design, technical and communication skills.
A2	Systematic understanding of the key histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences.	Critical understanding of the historical, social, economic and political contexts of architectural design to contextualise practical work.	Ability to investigate selected historical and theoretical concepts, and understand their influence on architectural design.
A3	Systematic understanding of urban design, planning, and the skills involved in the planning process.	Critical understanding of design across urban scales.	Ability to plan a given site and respond to its immediate context.
A4	Critical understanding of place through the relation between people and buildings, between buildings and their environment, and the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs and scale.	Demonstrate an understanding of habitance, quality and significance in existing places, and respond to it through proposed interventions.	Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of materiality and spatial design in satisfying a design brief.

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A5	Critically employ within your design process: structural, environmental, fiscal, construction and engineering solutions in the delivery of robust design, internal comfort and environmentally sustainable practice.	Appraise and propose appropriate technical systems within your design proposals, and evaluate the environmental impact of your designs.	Demonstrate an understanding of the technical requirements of design proposals.
A6	Conceptually understand the business and management principles of running architectural practices and procuring buildings.	Understand the duties of an architect, their codes of conduct and the role of the architect in society.	Demonstrate an understanding of the structure of the construction industry and its professionals

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1	Critically understand the methods of investigation and preparation of a given brief for a design project.	Work collaboratively to choose and justify appropriate approaches in the co-creation of a given design brief.	Independently determine the required outcomes of a given design brief.
B2	Through independent research, recognise, evaluate and critically reflect on architectural and design media and debates within the wider design context.	Analyse, evaluate, and identify the relevance and significance of architectural and design media in relation to a defined design enquiry.	Identify and interpret architectural and design media, basic theories and concepts.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B3	Independent development and synthesis of creative solutions to design problems through a critical understanding of appropriate design methodologies.	Apply experimental and critical approaches as part of a defined enquiry.	Respond to design briefs with creative solutions achieved through iterative design processes.
B4	Critically reflect, analyse and evaluate architectural practice informed by subject knowledge and an understanding of creative processes within design, social and cultural sectors.	Reflect on and analyse own and others' design work, informed by an expanded and relevant subject knowledge	Reflect on your own and others' design work

ARB General Criteria.

On achieving Level 6, the graduate will have met the following criteria:

GC1 - Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements.

GC2 - Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences.

GC3 - Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.

GC4 - Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process.

GC5 - 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.

GC6 - 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.

GC7 - Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project.

GC8 - Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design.

GC9 - 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.

GC10 - The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations.

GC11 - Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning.

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single award

BA (Hons) Architecture				Status
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single
4	ARC4001-20	Design Studio 1 - People, form and space	20	C
4	ARC4002-20	Communication 1 - Observation, surveying and depiction	20	C
4	ARC4003-20	Architectural Technologies 1	20	C
4	ARC4004-20	Design Studio 2 - Collaborative design	20	C
4	ARC4005-20	Design Studio 3 - Place	20	C
4	CDT4000-20	Wicked Problems: The Complexity of Critical Design Thinking	20	C
5	ARC5001-20	Design Studio 4 - Scale	20	C
5	ARC5002-20	Architectural Technologies 2	20	C
5	ARC5003-20	Architectural Practice 1	20	C
5	ARC5004-20	Design Studio 5 - Collaborative design	20	C
5	ARC5005-20	Design Studio 6 - Intervention	20	C
5	HAC5011-20	Architecture - Theory and Contemporary Issues	20	C
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	120	O
6	ARC6001-20	Design Studio 7 - Climate Positive Design	20	C
6	ARC6002-20	Architectural Practice 2	20	C
6	CDT6000-20	Design Futures: Independent Critical Project	20	C
6	ARC6003-60	Design Studio 8 - Final project	60	C

Assessment methods

Our Architecture programme is entirely assessed by Design Studio project portfolios and coursework. Across all modules you are assessed by a variety of methods that may include:

- Reports Reviews
- Reflective learning and professional practice pieces
- Proposal papers for projects
- Project progress reports
- Project evaluations
- Portfolios
- Presentations

We combine academic study with practice-based teaching. You'll learn through a variety of activities including lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, online activity and discussion, work-based learning, research projects and practical real-world projects.

Our staff offer access to a wide range of academic and practical expertise in the

interconnected disciplines that make up architectural studies. You'll benefit from one-to-one tutorials, workshops, peer-support and shared learning.

We work with you to ensure that what you learn on the programme translates into effective practice in the workplace, and supports the development of your professional potential.

Work experience and placement opportunities

The embedded work-based learning and Design Studio project experience opportunities offered on the BA (Hons) Architecture ensure that you graduate with practical experience and technical skills in architecture and design, and that you have started to develop your own professional practice and networks.

We have access to, and regularly work closely with a wide network of organisations and individual professionals within architecture and the wider design sectors both in the region and nationally. In addition to providing opportunities for live briefs, practical projects, placement and work experience, they also regularly engage with you through industry-insights events, specialist talks, masterclasses and professional mentoring.

Additional Costs Table

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates…	In Architecture, we enable this…
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	By developing design, professional and technical skills and knowledge; through internal and external multidisciplinary collaborative projects; in working with architectural, design and construction industry professionals.
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	In building complexity through each level of the course; in understanding the roles and agency of the architect in the design and procurement process; by developing project and time management skills; through engagement with contemporary social and cultural contexts.
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	By developing an iterative and critical approach to the design process; in working on collaborative multidisciplinary design projects; in encouraging an appreciation of broad design histories, disciplines, and cultures; creative risk taking, ideation, and problem solving; in working across scales and contexts.
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	By developing skills in specialist design and communication software, and using digital tools to support design and communication processes.

	Bath Spa Graduates…	In Architecture, we enable this…
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	With opportunities to study abroad; through international field trips; by studying and collaborating with overseas students; by encouraging participation in international[ly focussed] design projects, events and/or research.
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	Through a practice-based course with 'thinking through making' at its heart; by encouraging experimental, innovative and collaborative problem solving and practice.
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	By developing research and critical appraisal skills as part of the design process; in developing visual, oral, and writing skills in design, technical, cultural and communication modules.
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	By emphasising the cultural, ethical, environmental contexts and impacts of all taught modules and design briefs; through engaging with contemporary cultural debates and historical contexts.

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
ARC5001-20	Design Studio 4 - Scale	ILO updates to align with ARB	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24
ARC5002-20	Architectural Technologies 2	ILO updates to align with ARB	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24
ARC5003-20	Architectural Practice 1	ILO updates to align with ARB	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24
ARC5004-20	Design Studio 5 - Collaborative design	ILO updates to align with ARB	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24
ARC5005-20	Design Studio 6 - Intervention	ILO updates to align with ARB	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24
HAC5011-20	Architecture - Theory and Contemporary Issues	ILO updates to align with ARB	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24
ARC6001-20	Design Studio 7 - Climate Positive Design	ILO and Brief Description updates to align with ARB	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
ARC6002-20	Architectural Practice 2	ILO updates to align with ARB	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24
ARC6003-60	Design Studio 8 - Final project	ILO updates to align with ARB	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24
HAC5011-20	Architecture - Theory and Contemporary Issues	Changes to formative assessment	Design SQMC March 2024	2024/25

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
C-level ILOs replaced with ARB General Criteria	Curriculum Committee (via Chair's Action) March 2023	2023/24
HAC4005-20 History and Context: Introduction to Material and Visual Culture replaced with CDT4000-20 Wicked Problems: The Complexity of Critical Design Thinking	Approved by Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26
HAC6101-20 Visual and Material Culture: Final Study replaced with CDT6000-20 Design Futures: Independent Critical Project	Approved by Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – (BA (Hons) Architecture)

Programme Structure Diagram BA (Hons) Architecture	
LEVEL 4	
Semester One	**Semester Two**
Design Studio 1 - People, form and space [ARC4001-20] (C)	Design Studio 2 - Collaborative Design [ARC4004-20] (C)
Communication 1 - Observation, surveying and depiction [ARC4002-20] (C)	Design Studio 3 - Place [ARC4005-20] (C)
Architectural Technologies 1 [ARC4003-20] (C)	Wicked Problems: The Complexity of Critical Design Thinking CDT4000-20 (C)
LEVEL 5	
Semester One	**Semester Two**
Design Studio 4 - Scale [ARC5001-20] (C)	Design Studio 5 - Collaborative design [ARC5004-20] (C)
Architectural Technologies 2 [ARC5002-20] (C)	Design Studio 6 - Intervention [ARC5005-20] (C)
Architectural Practice 1 [ARC5003-20] (C)	Architecture - Theory and Contemporary Issues[HAC5011-20] (C)
Professional Placement Year [PPY5100-120] (C)	
*third year of four year **BA (Hons) Architecture with Professional Placement Year***	

LEVEL 6	
Semester One	**Semester Two**
Design Studio 7 - Climate Positive Design [ARC6001-20] (C)	Design Studio 8 - Final project [ARC6004-60] (C)
Architectural Practice 2 [ARC6002-20] (C)	
CDT6000-20 Design Futures: Independent Critical Project (C)	

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Please indicate (x) in the relevant boxes the modules in which level/programme Intended Learning Outcomes are being assessed.

(Note: not all modules will be expected to align with all ILOs for the level; rather, in designing each level of the programme, thought should be given to how the overall diet enables a student to meet all of the ILOs.)

(The number of columns can be adjusted to accommodate the ILOs as set out in the Programme Specification section of the Definitive Programme Document.)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[4]	Intended Learning Outcomes											
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				ARB General Criteria
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	
4	ARC4001-20	Design Studio 1 - People, form and space	C	X		X		X		X		X		
4	ARC4002-20	Communication 1 - Observation, surveying and depiction	C	X	X		X	X		X			X	

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[4]	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	ARB General Criteria
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				
4	ARC4003-20	Architectural Technologies 1	C	X		X	X	X	X		X			
4	ARC4004-20	Design Studio 2 - Collaborative design	C	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4	ARC4005-20	Design Studio 3 - Place	C	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		
4	CDT4000-20	Wicked Problems: The Complexity of Critical Design Thinking	C		X					X		X		
5	ARC5001-20	Design Studio 4 - Scale	C	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	GC 4, 5, 6
5	ARC5002-20	Architectural Technologies 2	C					X		X	X	X		GC 8, 9, 10
5	ARC5003-20	Architectural Practice 1	C				X	X	X				X	GC 6, 7, 11
5	ARC5004-20	Design Studio 5 - Collaborative design	C	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5	ARC5005-20	Design Studio 6 - Intervention	C	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
5	HAC5011-20	Architecture - Theory and Contemporary Issues	C		X	X			X		X		X	GC 2, 3
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	C	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
6	ARC6001-20	Design Studio 7 - Climate	C	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		GC 1, 5, 8, 9

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[4]	Intended Learning Outcomes										ARB General Criteria
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	
6	ARC6002-20	Architectural Practice 2	C	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		GC 6, 10, 11
6	CDT6000-20	Design Futures: Independent Critical Project	C		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	
6	ARC6003-60	Design Studio 8 - Final project	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	GC 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*, O)[5]	Report	Essay	Plan	Review	Critical Project	Project	Portfolio	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
				Assessment method									
				Coursework					Practical		Written Examination		
4	ARC4001-20	Design Studio 1 - People, form and space	C							X			
4	ARC4002-20	Communication 1 - Observation, surveying and depiction	C							X			
4	ARC4003-20	Architectural Technologies 1	C	X			X						
4	ARC4004-20	Design Studio 2 - Collaborative design	C							X			
4	ARC4005-20	Design Studio 3 - Place	C							X			

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*, O)[5]	Assessment method									
				Coursework					Practical		Written Examination		
				Report	Essay	Plan	Review	Critical Project	Project	Portfolio	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
4	CDT4000-20	Wicked Problems: The Complexity of Critical Design Thinking	C							X			
5	ARC5001-20	Design Studio 4 - Scale	C							X			
5	ARC5002-20	Architectural Technologies 2	C	X			X						
5	ARC5003-20	Architectural Practice 1	C	X									
5	ARC5004-20	Design Studio 5 - Collaborative design	C							X			
5	ARC5005-20	Design Studio 6 - Intervention	C							X			

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[5]	Coursework					Practical		Written Examination		
				Report	Essay	Plan	Review	Critical Project	Project	Portfolio	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
5	HAC5011-20	Architecture - Theory and Contemporary Issues	C	X						X			
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	C			X				X			
6	ARC6001-20	Design Studio 7 - Climate	C							X			
6	ARC6002-20	Architectural Practice 2	C	X									
6	CDT6000-20	Design Futures: Independent Critical Project	C					x					
6	ARC6003-60	Design Studio 8 - Final project	C							X			

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional