UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

Architecture Design Studies

UCAS code K10D

Entry requirements	**Study mode**	**Duration**
A level: ABB	Full-time	3 years

Apply by: **29 January 2025**
Starts on: **22 September 2025**

About this course

Architecture Design Studies allows for a greater flexibility in course choices than the prescriptive Architecture qualification, enabling students to explore their personal interests in the wider field of architecture by including a range of courses chosen by students, delivered other University of Liverpool departments, including Sociology, Planning, Music and Geography.

Introduction

The Architecture Design Studies programme aims to provide a foundation in the general field of architecture and other related disciplines. It seeks to generate an enthusiasm for architecture, a spirit of inquiry, and to stimulate life-long learning.

As well as a first step towards professional activity, architecture design studies can be an enjoyable preparation for further study or other careers. It demands knowledge of many different but interrelated disciplines and the development of personal as well as technical skills. All students begin in year one on a common course with the BA (Hons) Architecture RIBA Part I accredited route, to provide some experience of design process, before students specialise in later years through a wide range of courses offered by other University of Liverpool departments.

The programme encourages investigative and critical approaches to architecture, and the development of research and specialist skills. It combines individual creativity with knowledge and understanding of a broad variety of technical and cultural issues. The aim is to provide a broad academic programme in architecture and cognate disciplines, which does not contain the design project modules needed by future architects, but which will equip graduates with useful skills and knowledge of the field.

What you'll learn

- Structural and constructional principles

- The theories and principles of environmental technologies, the relationship of environmental design and architectural technology to the climate, the development of a sustainable environment, and the impact that architectural decisions may have upon the natural world and its resources

- The history and theory of architecture and urban design, the history of ideas, and the related disciplines of art and cultural studies

- An appreciation of the influences on the contemporary built environment of individual buildings, the design of cities, past and present societies and wider global issues

- The cultural context of architecture and urban design, and the related disciplines of art and landscape studies

- How to make informed and considered judgements about the spatial, aesthetic, technical and social qualities of historical or contemporary designs

- An understanding of architectural history and the key drivers informing change and development

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

Year one consists of compulsory modules, in which you will be introduced to the history and evolution of Architecture, developing foundational knowledge of the concepts and theories that will form the basis of the rest of your studies. We will look at the technology and principles of construction and structural design. Half of your module credits will be taken in studio design, enabling you to appreciate creative design process and learn architectural conventions.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CONTEXT 1.1: HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCH171)	15
CONTEXT 1.2 ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (ARCH121)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN 1 (ARCH111)	15
STUDIO 1.1: DESIGN COMMUNICATION (ARCH101)	15
STUDIO 1.2: DESIGN (ARCH103)	15
STUDIO 1.3: DESIGN (ARCH152)	30
TECHNOLOGY 1.2: STRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION (ARCH161)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year two

Year two has two strands, a continuation of your understanding of architectural processes and context, and a number of additional courses that you have the opportunity to choose. These courses are drawn from outside of the School of Architecture and feature sociology, planning, geography and psychology. You will take two of these optional modules in semester one.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CONTEXT 2.1: HISTORY AND THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCH271)	15
CONTEXT 2.1: URBAN STUDIES (ARCH221)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN 2 (ARCH211)	15
TECHNOLOGY 2.2: STRUCTURAL DESIGN (ARCH261)	15
POLITICAL ECONOMIES OF GLOBALISATION (ENVS264)	15
URBAN MORPHOLOGY AND PLACE-MAKING (ENVS256)	15

Optional modules	Credits
CITIES AND REGIONS (ENVS230)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ENVS218)	15
STRATEGIC PLAN MAKING (ENVS210)	15
PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (SOTA260)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year three

Year three continues to develop core architectural understanding while more optional modules allow further broadening of student interests. A core module in third year is a two-semester dissertation course in which students can devote significant time to researching an area of particular interest to the student, something both useful in itself and potentially important to moving toward employment opportunities or further study at postgraduate level.

You will take one optional module in semester one, and another in semester two.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CONTEXT 3.1: HISTORY AND THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCH321)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN 3 (ARCH311)	15
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT (ARCH371)	15
TECHNOLOGY 3.1: INTEGRATED TECHNICAL PROJECT DESIGN (ARCH361)	15
DESIGN STUDIES DISSERTATION (ARCH382)	30

Optional modules	Credits
BUILDING BETTER WORLDS (ENVS387)	15
PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (ENVS369)	15
PLANNING LAW AND GOVERNANCE (ENVS348)	15
POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS325)	15

Optional modules	Credits
URBAN AND REGIONAL REGENERATION (ENVS336)	15
URBAN DESIGN STUDIES (ENVS312)	15
CURATION AND HERITAGE (MUSI353)	15
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS WORK PLACEMENTS MODULE (SOTA300)	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The course comprises of a series of lecture-based courses, with seminars, group work and one to one tutorials. As the choice of courses in largely driven by each student it isn't possible to provide a comprehensive description but the majority of teaching will be delivered on campus, with additional support through online Teams based conversations.

Architecture Design Studies does not have a studio design component, so the course is arranged as a number of lecture based courses which deliver core material supplemented by seminars, one to one tutorials and self-directed research.

How you're assessed

Each course assessed in different manners, which we attempt to provide in a series of ways to allow each student to demonstrate their knowledge in a range of submission formats. This comprise of essays, multiple choice quizzes, posters, reports, exams and presentations.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The programme prepares its graduates for careers into a series of fields related to architecture and the built environment. Successful students may go on to work in architectural journalism, art history, museum curatorship and arts administration, executive roles in the construction industry and architects' offices, as well as the wide range of careers open to graduates in arts and social science disciplines. The programme also prepares graduates for further full-time education at Masters level or in vocational degrees such as Town and Country Planning.

Architecture graduates can follow a few options. This programme is also an ideal preparation for further study and hugely valuable in a whole range of other careers.

Recent graduates have gone on to work in the following:

- the Arts Council;
- the construction industry;
- and multidisciplinary think tanks;
- games design and the fashion industry;
- property development.

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £9,535
Year in industry fee - £1,905
Year abroad fee - £1,430 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £29,900
Year in industry fee - £1,905
Year abroad fee - £14,950 (applies to year in China)

The tuition fees shown are correct for 2025/26 entry. Please note that the year abroad fee also applies to the year in China.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. Learn more about paying for your studies.

Additional costs

At first year level, where the course follows the K100 Architecture course, there is a limited requirement for graphical and model making materials. Most of these are supplied by the Architecture Course, but there will be some costs in purchasing course specific equipment (adjustable set square, pencils, erasers, pens, craft knife, glue etc). In the later years, where there are no studio modules the additional costs will only be those that might be associated with any academic course

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

A levels

ABB

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

GCSE

GCSE Maths and English grade C/4

Subject requirements

This course requires a portfolio to accompany standard UCAS application

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Distinction BB

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

DDD

International Baccalaureate

33 points with no score less than 4.

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H2, H2, H2, H3, H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

ABB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

Acceptable at grade A and A level grades BB

Access

Considered if taking Art and Design Pathway 30 Level 3 credits at Distinction and 15 level 3 credits at Merit

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the University of Liverpool International College, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

TOEFL Paper

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

LanguageCert

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or the equivalent score in selected other English language tests, to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to Pre-sessional English entry requirements for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, contact us for advice
- If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, the one-year Go Higher diploma qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes
- Applications from mature students are welcome.

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