UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

Architecture

UCAS code K100

Entry requirements	Study mode
A level: AAA	Full-time

Duration

3 years leading to a 2 year Masters degree (MArch)

Apply by: **13 January 2027**
Starts on: **27 September 2027**

About this course

As the first UK university to award a RIBA-validated degree in Architecture, the University of Liverpool has a long and proud tradition of excellence in architectural education and research. Our approach to teaching embraces contemporary debates around sustainability, climate change, equality and diversity, reflecting the industry today.

Introduction

The programme aims to provide a comprehensive foundation in architecture, which demands knowledge of many different but interrelated disciplines, and the development of personal as well as technical skills. RIBA Part I validation is awarded on completion of your studies.

Each year contains core modules in the history and theory of architecture; building structures and construction; and approaches to design. Environmental issues are considered at every level of study and you will also have an opportunity to learn about

practice management. These knowledge modules will be combined with studio design, which accounts for 50% of your credits in each year.

We encourage a creative and individual approach to the future, allowing us to respond to your individual strengths and to the increasingly specialist, complex nature of future professional life. From day one, we will support and nurture your creative voice, both in the Design Studio and in the decisions you make regarding your study options.

Master of Architecture (Integrated) MArch

You have the option to transfer to the Master of Architecture (Integrated) MArch, which will allow you to complete RIBA Part 1 and Part 2 in four years instead of the typical five. The first three years of the Integrated MArch mirror those of Architecture BA (Hons). Please note that the transfer is subject to successful pass marks.

What you'll learn

- Architectural design skills
- The history and evolution of architecture
- The technology and principles of construction and structural design
- Graphical and modelling techniques
- Design principles and philosophies
- Current sustainability and environmental debates and measures
- Management theory and business organisation
- Knowledge and awareness of current and emerging technologies and their application in construction

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Accreditation

This programme is validated at Part 1 level by the RIBA. From September 2025 onwards, the Architects Registration Board (ARB) are no longer offering accreditation for Part 1 level courses and instead will only offer accreditation at master's-level.

Accreditation in detail

ARB

The Architects Registration Board (ARB) is the independent statutory regulator of architects in the UK, and is also the UK's Competent Authority for Architects. In order to call yourself an architect in the UK you must be registered with the ARB.

ARB ensures that all registered architects meet the required standards and have the necessary qualifications to practise, as well as upholding relevant legislation and investigating any complaints made against a member.

In order to register in the UK, students who begin the BA Architecture course from September 2025 onwards will typically need to hold an ARB accredited UK qualification at masters-level, and a Part 3 or a practice qualification.

Completing the BA Architecture course is therefore an important step towards gaining entry to a masters-level qualification. The Liverpool School of Architecture is currently initiating approval for an ARB accredited masters-level qualification, to replace our outgoing ARB accredited Part 2 qualification.

RIBA

Dating all the way back to 1837, the Royal Institute of British Architects is the UK's chartered body for architecture. It was founded to promote the advancement of architecture and maintain high-quality design and customer service. RIBA chartered membership is voluntary and is not a legal requirement to practise as an architect. However, membership allows an architect to use the term “chartered” and the RIBA suffix.

The typical route to becoming a Chartered Architect in the United Kingdom is a combination of academic studies at a university and practical experience. It involves training for five years at university and completing a minimum of two years practical experience before final qualification.

We were the first University in the UK to award an RIBA validated degree and have had continuous validation since. Our first degree, the BA Hons in Architecture is a three year degree giving RIBA Part 1 validation on completion. Our second degree is

the Master of Architecture (MArch Hons) giving RIBA Part 2 validation. We recommend that our MArch graduates take the Part 3 Advanced Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture qualification through the route offered by the RIBA (Chester), with which we have close links.

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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 develop graphical and modelling techniques, and to nurture your creative voice.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE (ARCH171)	15
CONTEXT 1.2 ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (ARCH121)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES (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. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing all

of our programmes. This may include refining study pathways, strengthening links with employers, integrating generative AI, developing students' research skills, and enhancing alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it is running in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by 1 September 2026 at the latest.

Year two

You will deepen your understanding through compulsory modules in architectural theory and design.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CONTEXT 2.1: HISTORY AND THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCH271)	15
CONTEXT 2.1: URBAN STUDIES (ARCH221)	15
DESIGN 2.1 (ARCH202)	30
PASSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN SYSTEMS (ARCH211)	15
TECHNOLOGY 2.2: STRUCTURAL DESIGN (ARCH261)	15
STUDIO 2.3 DESIGN (ARCH252)	30

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Year three

You will study six compulsory modules, covering design, management, and history. Half of your credits will be taken in studio design.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CONTEXT 3.1: HISTORY AND THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCH321)	15
ACOUSTICS, LIGHTING AND ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN SYSTEMS (ARCH311)	15
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT (ARCH371)	15
STUDIO 3.1 DESIGN (ARCH302)	30
STUDIO 3.2 DESIGN (ARCH352)	30
INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES IN CONSTRUCTION (ARCH361)	15

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Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Year one of the programme comprises a series of interconnected modules, which are designed to lay the foundation for future years. The initial aim is to teach basic graphic communication and to give you the tools to develop your own design agenda.

Year two modules put increased emphasis on the context of architecture such as urban design, responsibility to society, and relationships with the construction industry.

The final year of the programme provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate you have acquired the necessary knowledge and skill to embark on a professional career in architecture. Building on the expertise and understanding of the previous two years, the design modules allow you to develop the necessary skills to design medium and large-scale buildings with a high degree of complexity.

How you're assessed

Written exams count for roughly 25% of your overall marks, with the balance coming from the creativity, reasoning and imagination you've shown in your work during the programme. In the studio modules, assessment is always carried out by a team of staff, who review all of the designs to arrive at a consensus on marks.

At the end of each academic year, portfolios of designs are reviewed by all architectural staff to reach a further consensus understanding of each student's progress. We believe that excellent design is encouraged as much by what we teach, as by how far the student is prepared to pursue their architectural ideas.

We avoid a box-ticking approach to marking, looking instead for exploration and consistency in the design that demonstrates independence and invention. Our approach to marking by consensus gives, we believe, the best guarantee of fairness while encouraging personal experiment. The best coursework shows an awareness of the greater world of architecture and the building industry, and contributes to knowledge. We try hard to avoid templates of performance while keeping within best practice. To this end, guidance issued is as clear and precise as we can make it, whilst expecting that creativity will dominate.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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Careers and employability

The BA in Architecture is a first step into the profession, into which many of our graduates go. The programme is validated by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) at Part 1 level and is an important step towards gaining entry to a masters-level qualification (MArch), which is accredited by the Architects Registration Board (ARB).

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

We also hold an End of Year Degree Show to conclude your BA studies and showcase the range of work produced during your time on the programme. We invite a number of architect firms to attend the event, many of whom have gone on to make job or work experience offers to our graduating students.

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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 - £10,050
Year in industry fee - £2,010
Year abroad fee - £1,508 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £32,000
Year in industry fee - £1,955
Year abroad fee - £16,000 (applies to year in China)

The UK fees shown are for the academic year 2027/28. The international fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27 and will be subject for change for the academic year 2027/28. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

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

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. You can find information on the general and subject-specific costs you could expect to incur on our study costs webpage.

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Entry requirements

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

A levels

AAA

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

T levels

Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction is accepted with an overall grade of Distinction to include A in the core.

Applicants should contact us by completing the enquiry form on our website to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

GCSE

GCSE Maths and English grade C/4

Subject requirements

There are no specific subject requirements but you will be required to submit an art-based portfolio or attend a Selection Day. We will consider applicants with lower grades, subject to a strong portfolio submission or Selection Day attendance.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

D and Grade AA at A-Level

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

DDD

International Baccalaureate

36 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 6,6,6 in 3 HL subjects.

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H1, H2, H2, H2, H2, H2

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

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

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

A in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus AA at A level.

Access

Considered if taking Art and Design Access to HE Diploma with 45 Level 3 credits with 39 at Distinction and 6 at Merit.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.

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.

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

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

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

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 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 or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	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 at 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.

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