UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

MA

Advanced Architecture

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **11 September 2026** Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This programme combines advanced architectural design and theory with a variety of specialist options that outline innovations and contemporary practice. Choose a specialist pathway to hone your expertise in a particular area, or follow the general programme to gain exposure to a broad range of modern architectural techniques.

Introduction

Whether you're a recent graduate or an experienced architect, our MA Advanced Architecture (formerly MA Architecture) equips you with enhanced specialist skills and knowledge in architectural design.

This highly flexible programme provides a grounding in architectural design processes and research methods, and also offers a choice of specialist pathways:

- MA Advanced Architecture (BIM-Enhanced Design)
- MA Advanced Architecture (Biodigital Design)
- MA Advanced Architecture (Computational Design and AI)
- MA Advanced Architecture (Design and Digital Heritage)

On this general pathway, you can focus on enhancing your design and technical skills or alternatively pursue a research or design research path in preparation for future PhD studies.

Our optional modules enable you to personalise your studies to match your interests and experience. From the application of computational design, AI, digital fabrication, robotics, and VR/AR, to sustainable design, building information modelling, environmental assessments and digital heritage – or a bespoke combination of the above.

There are opportunities to take part in field trips and visit world-leading exhibitions and practices. You will also meet professionals from renowned architectural firms. Specialists from Heatherwick Studio, Foster + Partners and Zaha Hadid Architects are regular guests in our design reviews.

Visit the MA in Advanced Architecture website to see examples of projects undertaken by current students and recent graduates, as well as recent excursions and other activities.

Who is this course for?

This master's is suitable for experienced architects, as well as graduates from a design background e.g. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interior/Art Design, Environmental Design, Urban Design, or Civil/Structural Engineering, who wish to specialise further in advanced architectural design and construction.

What you'll learn

- Advanced design and technical skills
- Enhanced concepts and theories in architecture
- Applications of research to architectural design
- Expertise in a range of architectural specialisms (computational design, robotics/digital fabrication, AI-assisted design, environmental design, BIM, AR/VR, digital heritage, history/theory)
- Insights and innovations from leading professionals in architecture

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Course content

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

Semester one

You must take either ARCH712 or ARCH777, plus 45 additional credits of optional modules.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
ARCHITECTURAL THEORIES FROM 1900 TO THE PRESENT (ARCH712)	15
COMPUTATIONAL DESIGN AND AI: THEORY AND APPLICATIONS (ARCH777)	15
VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURE (ARCH708)	15
ADVANCED DESIGN & AI-ASSISTED DESIGN 1 (ARCH711)	30
PASSIVE STRATEGIES FOR LOW-CARBON AND HEALTHY BUILDINGS (ARCH716)	15
AI-INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY MODELLING (ARCH717)	15
BIM THEORY, PRACTICE AND TOOLS (ARCH724)	30
URBAN DESIGN (ARCH731)	15
HERITAGE PERSPECTIVES AND POLICIES (ARCH735)	15
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT: APPROACHES AND METHODS (ARCH736)	15

Optional modules	Credits
NET ZERO STRATEGIES AND LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (ARCH747)	15

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

Semester two

Alongside your compulsory module, you will take 45 credits of optional modules.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (ARCH707)	15

Optional modules	Credits
ARCHITECTURAL THEORY AND CRITIQUE (ARCH704)	15
ADVANCED & AI-ASSISTED DESIGN 2 (ARCH713)	30
DESIGNING FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE (ARCH719)	15
BIM IMPLEMENTATION IN COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS (ARCH725)	15
PARAMETRIC DESIGN AND DIGITAL FABRICATION (ARCH730)	15
DIGITAL CLIMATE RESPONSIVE AND NET ZERO DESIGN STUDIO (ARCH734)	30
HERITAGE DOCUMENTATION, DIGITISATION AND PRESENTATION (ARCH739)	15

Optional modules	Credits
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND CONSTRUCTION 4.0 (ARCH743)	15
DESIGN FOR DAYLIGHT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN BUILDINGS (ARCH760)	15

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

Final project

You will choose one of the optional modules.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
THESIS: DISSERTATION (ARCH721)	60
THESIS: RESEARCH BY DESIGN (ARCH722)	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching methods include lectures, small-group seminars, studio tutorials, group work and guided independent study.

Lectures will typically provide a broad introduction to key topics and debates, while seminars enable particular issues or design challenges to be explored and discussed in greater detail. Studio tutorials will develop your design strategies through small-group teaching led by a tutor.

How you're assessed

A range of assessment methods are used on this programme, including essays, presentations, reports, blogs, portfolios, case study research and practical group projects. You'll also develop a research proposal and complete a dissertation or research design project.

Studio work is formally assessed by a digital portfolio at the end of each semester.

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

Although this programme does not carry RIBA/ARB accreditation, you'll be studying with the UK's first Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) accredited University School of Architecture.

Learning from experts engaged in highly rated international research, your employability will be enhanced through gaining specialist knowledge and putting your skills into practice. You can tailor your module choice to maximise its relevance and suitability to your future career.

You'll graduate ready for a stimulating and rewarding career in a variety of roles and industries relevant to the built environment.

These include careers in:

- Architecture.
- Construction.
- Management.
- Higher education.
- The arts.
- Conservation.

You may wish to continue your studies and will find you are well prepared for PhD research.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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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 - £12,500

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £30,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

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

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,858 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

The additional cost of modelmaking materials won't exceed £60. You may need to pay an extra £50 to £200 for optional field trips.

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.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Architecture (or a closely related subject e.g. Landscape Architecture, Interior/Art Design, Civil/Structural Engineering or Urban Design). Please contact us if you wish to check whether your degree subject is suitable, however a wide spectrum of subjects are acceptable.

Candidates who do not meet these requirements will be considered on their individual merits and should discuss their particular circumstances with the Programme Director.

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 entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

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 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. 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 writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

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 writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 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 6.0, for further details.

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