

MArch

# Master of Architecture

**Study mode**

Full-time

**Duration**

2 years full-time

Apply by: **30 June 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

## About this course

The Master of Architecture (MArch) programme, validated by RIBA and accredited by the Architects Registration Board, is a design-intensive and research-led course tailored to respond to the contemporary challenges of the profession. In 2023, the Royal Institute of British Architects validation board commended the course for 'equipping students with the skills and knowledge to question the broadening context of architectural practice, and in particular, a research-led approach to design.' The programme is part of wide global and local architectural networks and is run by internationally-acclaimed academics and professionals. Keeping up with the prestige of being the first RIBA-validated architecture school in the UK, we are currently ranked 3rd in the UK for Architecture (The Guardian University Guide 2025).

## Introduction

The success of our programme is owed to the following three factors: a collaborative practice that engages students in teamwork with their peers and expert professionals; a research-driven curriculum that exposes students to a rich repertoire of themes and cultures; and an international outlook that widens their professional horizon.

Tutors with strong research and professional backgrounds instil competence and confidence in students to explore local and international issues in all areas of architecture. Working with real projects in the British context allows national stakeholders to inform the briefing and review process; tackling international issues provides students with a wider knowledge of cities and architectures and the skills to work in different contexts on site and remotely. Our successful international field trips, design competitions, collaborations with different universities, as well as our extensive exchange programme further support this vision. We also have a very generous offering of prizes for students performing strongly in areas of our MArch degree.

With its diverse research portfolio, a multi-disciplinary approach, and a strong professional network, the programme equips students with agency to develop their own agendas in all sectors of the built environment, offering more than one way to become an architect. Our graduates have an excellent record of employment in both internationally renowned offices and small-scale specialist practices.

Find out more about the design work produced by our most recent [MArch4 students](#) and [MArch5 students](#).

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## What you'll learn

- To design pieces of architecture within complex urban contexts
- To take responsible and informed action about the maintenance and the further development of the built environment
- To synthesise intricate and creative design briefs in response to diverse conditions
- To critically evaluate the social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental impact of architectural design
- To apply the principles of sustainable design and to develop the structural, constructional, material, environmental and legislative aspects of a complex building to a high degree of resolution
- To practice the wide range of forms of architectural representation (from verbal to drawing by physical and digital means and from modelling to photography to film and to installation) to describe design ideas and proposals

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## Accreditation

The Master of Architecture (MArch) programme is accredited as a RIBA Part 2 and a Board of Architects Malaysia (LAM) Part 2 award, and is a professional/undergraduate Masters qualification available to students with a BA/BSc in Architecture and RIBA Part 1 or LAM Part 1. This degree is validated by the RIBA and LAM, and prescribed by ARB as a Part 2 qualification towards access to the Architectural Profession in the UK.

Candidates should be aware that those who do not have RIBA Part 1 on joining the MArch here at Liverpool, may apply to the Architects Registration Board (ARB) upon MArch course completion to be considered for RIBA Part 1 (for a fee payable to ARB). The University of Liverpool has no say in this process, which is undertaken independently by the candidate.

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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 focuses on the relationship between architecture and the contemporary city. Working on a different city every year, the studio proceeds through four interlinked stages, facilitating critical architectural projects that traverse the full range of scales from the urban strategy to the technical detail. This is supported by seminars on drawing, representation, urban design, construction, and detailing. Taught modules on urban design, professional practice, research methods, and contemporary approaches to sustainability complement the work in the studio.

You will take entirely mandatory modules in your first year. These modules are classed as Level 6 (pass mark 40%) and will make up 30% of your final degree classification. Modules ARCH401, ARCH402, ARCH403 and ARCH404 are a consecutive related set of design projects.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DESIGN THEORY AND CULTURE (ARCH401)	15
URBAN SURVEY AND STRATEGY (ARCH402)	15
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN (ARCH403)	15
DETAIL DESIGN (ARCH404)	15
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT LAW (ARCH405)	15

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
URBAN DESIGN: THEORY AND PRACTICE (ARCH406)	15
SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE (ARCH410)	15
HUMANITIES AND RESEARCH METHODS (ARCH480)	15

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

## **Year two**

Year two focuses on an independent line of study, helping students to explore their own architectural agendas. This process is supervised by the school's research centres and expert professionals. The students' chosen area of enquiry (based on a specific territory, a set of design questions, a programmatic exploration, a historical precedent, etc.) is identified and tested through a series of design experiments that establish design methodologies. Thesis Design becomes this major piece of work bridging the practical and theoretical aspects of architecture. It brings together materiality and concept, building techniques and atmospheres of spaces, and a thorough understanding of the ways in which we can build more equitable and sustainable future through the means of architecture. The dissertation develops the theoretical underpinning of projects, while the thesis sustainability and equity report addresses the technical aspects of design in a holistic manner.

You will be required to choose between either ARCH520 or ARCH523 for as your optional module in your second year. Your second-year modules are classed as Level 7 (pass mark 50%) and will make up 70% of your final degree classification.

## **Modules**

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
DISSERTATION (ARCH521)	30

Compulsory modules	Credits
THESIS DESIGN (ARCH522)	45
THESIS SUSTAINABILITY REPORT (ARCH524)	15

  

Optional modules	Credits
RESEARCH BY DESIGN STUDIES (ARCH520)	30
EXCHANGE STUDIES (OVERSEAS) 3 (ARCH523)	30

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

## Teaching and assessment

### How you're assessed

You'll be assessed by coursework submissions of diverse formats, which include digital and physical portfolios, text-based reports and research essays, websites, and exhibitions.

### 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 course gives students the freedom to develop their own academic and professional agendas based on their interests and ambitions. The aim is to prepare graduates for a wide range of professional paths, from practicing architecture in the UK and abroad ('global citizenship' being a core attribute of the Liverpool Curriculum Framework), to continuing their development via post-professional courses, to becoming researchers in architecture and its related fields. Our graduates have an excellent record of employment in both internationally renowned offices and small-scale specialist practices, as well as in research institutions.

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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 - £9,790

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £1,465 (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 fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. 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. This includes costs for model making, printing and materials.

Architectural education is based on active learning and thinking through making, therefore the making of models and the testing of drawings are inextricable part of the process. We reduce the cost of model-making by having an in-house arts store, where all materials are offered at suppliers' prices. Printing costs are also reduced in our print media suite. Moreover, the

equipment for digital fabrication in our workshops can be used at no cost. We also provide key software licences to all students and our computer labs give access a much wider range of specialist software.

In the second year of the programme, where students present their work in the form of an exhibition, we provide support with materials and printing costs. We estimate that additional course-related costs can be, for the first year, at £100 for model making, £50 for printing, and £50 for other materials and, for the second year, at £150 for model making, £50 for printing, and £50 for extra materials.

Finally, we try our best to secure funding for an international study trip in year one. When this is not possible, the trip is optional at a cost of a maximum of £400. In year two, international study trips take place only when funding has been secured.

[Find out more about additional study costs.](#)

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# Entry requirements

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

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## GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

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## Subject requirements

We are keen to encourage applicants with a strong design ability and the talent to succeed at Liverpool. Although successful applicants will typically have a 2:1 honours degree in Architecture with RIBA Part 1, we judge every application on its merits.

In considering your application, we will review your academic record, including your final year studio design project where applicable, and you will be asked to submit a 10-page design portfolio which demonstrates a high level of design ability and extensive knowledge of the histories, theories and practices of architecture. If you are able to provide evidence of professional development in practice we will consider this. You may also be invited to an interview.

Alongside Architecture graduates, we welcome applicants from associated disciplines, including Interior Design, Landscape Architecture and Architectural Engineering courses. We will also consider applicants on an individual basis with lower or non-accredited qualifications, if supported by a strong portfolio.

Candidates who have an interest in the course should discuss their circumstances with the Programme Director and the Admission Officer.

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## 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.

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## Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
  - [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.
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## 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.

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### IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

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### 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.

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### Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110

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### Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

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## **LanguageCert Academic**

70 overall, with no skill below 65

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## **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.

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## **Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990**

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced**

176 overall, with no paper below 169

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## **International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature**

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

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## **International Baccalaureate English B**

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

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## **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.

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## 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

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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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Generated: 19 Feb 2026, 14:33

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