

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

BA (Hons) Architecture

Managed by the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

delivered by School of Architecture

Date approved:	Date approval confirmed, on recommendation of University validation panel or other authorised body.
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2018

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**
July 2016	Transferred to new template, update graduate attribute from global to active citizenship, Ordinary Degree requirements	CMA Compliance, Update to graduate attribute
December 2016	Checked for errors and amended by Subject Coordinator and Programme Lead.	Subject specialist knowledge.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus
Language of study:	English
Final award:	BA (Hons)
Programme title:	Architecture
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	Cert HE, Dip HE, BA (Ordinary)
Brookes course code:	AR
UCAS code:	K100
JACS code:	K100
HECoS code:	100122
Mode of delivery:	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
Mode/s and duration of study:	FT: three years (expected), eight years (maximum, subject to Visa restrictions) PT: five years (expected), eight years (maximum, subject to Visa restrictions)
QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Architecture (September 2010)
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	Royal Institute of British Architects www.architecture.com and Architects Registration Board www.arb.org.uk Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive [2005/36/EC] http://eur-lex.europa.eu Exemption from RIBA/ARB Part I Examination.
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAM ME?

Design and creativity are at the heart of the BA (Hons) Architecture. They are integrated into all aspects of the curriculum, informing its content, delivery and assessment. Students will experience learning that brings together all academic subjects into a portfolio of design work that showcases their achievements and opens the doors to professional work. The course offers many opportunities to connect exemplary research and practice through live projects, site visits, field trips and active research methods. The Honours degree leads to exemption from the RIBA Part I examination, the first of three examinations required to gain the award of the title "Architect".

The aim of the course is to produce a designer with a creative imagination and the knowledge, understanding and skills to respond to a wide range of contemporary human needs, both local and global, related to the built environment, its cultural, technological and professional context and its future development. Graduates will use a variety of media, both digital and analogue to express their innovative, creative, and sustainable design proposals.

Please refer to the following link to view the staff profiles within the School of Architecture:

<http://architecture.brookes.ac.uk/staff/>

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following Programme Level Learning Outcomes synthesise module level learning outcomes with the Graduate Attributes found in the RIBA/ARB/EU Part 1 Criteria (2010), the Oxford Brookes University Graduate Attributes (2011), the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement (Sept 2010), and the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors (South East England Consortium for Credit Accumulation & Transfer) 2010

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

- a1 Demonstrate a creative, conceptual and critical approach to design for a variety of contexts, occupants, scale, complexity and types.
- a2 Create design proposals, some at the current boundaries of professional practice and the academic discipline of architecture.
- a3 Synthesise an understanding of history, theory, art practice and technology as well as social, political, economic, professional, legal and environmental issues and where appropriate, apply creatively to architectural design projects.
- a4 Appraise alternatives and apply materials, processes and techniques, some at the current boundaries of architectural design, building construction, structures, environment and technology.
- a5 Employ ideas at a level of abstraction and select, strategise and apply relevant disciplinary knowledge to design and academic work.

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

- b1 Appraise alternative evidence, arguments and assumptions to make sound judgments and devise and sustain a structured discourse relating to architectural design, its theory and current research
- b2 Investigate and define appropriate research questioning and methods in order to prepare briefs and independent research projects.

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

c1. Reflect on own learning and exercise the personal responsibility required for further professional development including collaborative work, listening and responding to others, critical judgement and flexible problem-solving.

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

d1 Select and employ a range of physical and digital methods and media for investigation, communication and making in order to present design proposals and ideas clearly and effectively to expert and non-expert users where appropriate.

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

e1 Examine the context of the architect and the construction industry.

e2 Use relevant professional, inter-personal, ethical, sustainable, entrepreneurial knowledge and skills needed for decision making in complex global and unpredictable circumstances.

The following grid maps the six required ARB/RIBA Part 1 Graduate Attributes to the BA (Hons) Programme Level Learning Outcomes

ARB/RIBA Part 1 Graduate Attributes: Graduates of the BA (Hons) Architecture will be able to demonstrate:	BA (Hons) Architecture	
	Programme Learning Outcome that demonstrate ARB/RIBA Part 1 Graduate Attributes	ARB/RIBA Part 1 Graduate Attributes are satisfied by the following modules
1. ability to generate design proposals using understanding of a body of knowledge, some at the current boundaries of professional practice and the academic discipline of architecture	a1 a2 a3	U30021; U30022; U30073; U30074; U30092
2. ability to apply a range of communication methods and media to present design proposals clearly and effectively	d1	U30021; U30022; U30023; U30074; U30092
3. understanding of the alternative materials, processes and techniques that apply to architectural design and building construction	a4	U30020; U30022; U30073; U30092
4. ability to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions in order to make and present sound judgments within a structured discourse relating to architectural culture, theory and design	b1 b2 a5	U30024; U30025; U30074; U30092; U30099
5. knowledge of the context of the architect and the construction industry, and the professional qualities needed for decision making in complex and unpredictable circumstances	e1 e2	U30024; U30021; U30022; U30072; U30074; U30092
6. ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required for further professional education.	c1	U30072; U30073; U30074; U30092; U30099

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
U30000	Introduction to Architectural Design 1	30	4	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30001	Introduction to Architectural Design 2	30	4	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30004	Architectural Representation	15	4	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30006	Architecture and Society	15	4	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30007	Introduction to Architectural History	15	4	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30008	Introduction to Architectural Technology	15	4	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30020	Architectural Technology 1	15	5	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30021	Architectural Design 1	30	5	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30022	Architectural Design 2	30	5	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30023	Digital Culture	15	5	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30024	Cities, Culture and Society	15	5	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30025	Issues in Architectural History and Theory	15	5	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30074	Architectural Design 3	30	6	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30073	Advanced Architectural Technology	15	6	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30072	Management, Practice and Law	15	6	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30092	Architectural Design 4	30	6	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30099	Dissertation	30	6	Compulsory	100 : 0
U30068	Independent Study	15	5	Optional	100 : 0
U75123	Communication, Culture and Organisations	15	5	Optional	100 : 0

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Degree Awards:

For the award of the BA Honours degree in Architecture, a student must pass at least 24 module credits, including at least 8 Level 4 module credits, and at least 8 Level 5 module credits, and 8 honours Level 6 module credits.

Requirements for BSc Ordinary: All level 4 and 5 modules are compulsory + 60 credits at Level 6 honours from modules U30073, U30074 and U30072.

Requirements for Named DipHE: students must pass U30020, U30021, U30022, U30023, U30024 and U30025.

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The twenty-four compulsory modules make up a complete programme. All compulsory modules are required. Students on exchange must demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes for all compulsory modules prior to the award of credit.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Information about the learning experience is provided in the course entry. Include information here about:

- typical contact/independent study mix across the programme – how student time is divided between different teaching and learning methods;
- how the assessment strategy is informed by the Brookes Assessment Compact, and how it has been designed to enable students to achieve the programme learning outcomes;
- an indication of the typical mix of coursework/examinations students will experience across the programme.

A varied assessment strategy informed by the Brookes Assessment Compact

Staff teaching is conducted through a range of approaches so that forms of assessment are responsive to the varied nature of the learning experience and provide relevant and effective methods to assess what was learned. Typical learning formats include: group project work, workshops, large and small group tutorials, individual tutorials, lectures, site and building visits, field trips and self-directed study and project work. Typical assessment types are: project pin-ups, reviews, crits, lectures, seminars and peer assessment. . Most of the modules adopt a number of these approaches dependent on the learning required of the student. End of module student feedback is consulted when making decisions on appropriate assessment methods.

1. Design Studio The course is delivered primarily through the design project, assessed via a portfolio of work. The design studio is the focal point of the students' learning experience and is central to the learning and practice of Academic, Research, Digital, Active Citizenship and Personal literacy. It is in this environment that the students synthesise a variety of information, approaches, facts, and disciplines.

The students maintain regular and frequent contact with their design studio tutors in order to fully evolve a design proposal. The students also learn from other students in the design studio as well as the staff, thus the design studio is a major contributory element to the student's development in architectural education.

Students are taught in vertical unit groups composed of year two and three together. A range of design studio units are offered, each with its own project briefs. Students are consulted on their preferred units and are allocated according to this when possible / appropriate. Year one students are taught in small tutor groups. Design projects vary in length and it is here that the students integrate their learning from the specialist subjects and optional modules through self-reflection and integrated pieces of work, such as technical reports, which run parallel to the development of their design proposal.

2. Portfolio The culmination of a semester and/or year (dependent on the student's level) is the production of a portfolio of work. Primarily this consists of the design projects undertaken over the semester, or year. This portfolio is the key element that demonstrates overall student progression and learning.

Portfolios enable students to demonstrate a broad range of skills across Academic, Research, Digital, Active Citizenship and Personal literacy.

3. Lectures are used specifically to furnish the foundations and framework that will enable students to attain the knowledge and understanding outcomes for the module.

This element provides opportunities for students' development of Academic and Research literacy in addition to Active Citizenship.

4. Seminars reinforce a student's acquisition of the knowledge and learning outcomes for the module.

This element enables students' development in Research and Personal literacy.

5. Workshops allow a student to gain skills under supervision and gauge their abilities in relation to their peers in order to aid their understanding of progression.

This element enables students' development of Academic and Personal literacy.

6. Field Trips/Site Visits. Architectural education utilises empirical as well as theoretical approaches to learning. The opportunity to study original architecture in context reinforces and supports the student's acquisition of knowledge and understanding as well as affording opportunities for primary research.

This element assists with the development of students' Active Citizenship and Research literacy.

7. Tutorials are the primary teaching technique on the course. These enable a reciprocal conversation between students and tutor that broadens the ambition and scope of a project in a way that is responsive to the learning trajectory and / or design direction of each individual student.

Tutorials cover a full range of subject matter and develop Academic, Research, Digital, Active Citizenship and Personal literacy.

8. Self-Directed study occurs on all modules, for both practical skills and academic study. Brookes Virtual is used to provide additional materials and resources to help with this, including online tutorials.

This enables students to improve their Personal, Research and Digital literacy.

Assessment

Assessment is conducted through a variety of methods; the design crit, written examination, coursework essays, seminar presentations, pin-ups, report writing, dissertations and portfolio. Each of the assessment methods is chosen to foster the learning outcomes specified in a module.

The assessment criteria used in the School of Architecture is equivalent to the grades of the final degree qualification of the honours degree as follows:

- A 70% and above = Pass, 1st Class Degree
- B+ 60%-69% = Pass, Upper Second Class Degree (2:1)
- B 50%-59% = Pass, Lower Second Class Degree (2:2)
- C 41%-49% = Pass, 3rd Class Degree
- D 40% = Pass, 3rd Class Degree
- F 30%-39% = Fail, permitted to re-sit module
- F 0%-29% = Fail, not permitted to re-sit module.

It is noted is that a student who graduates with a non-honours degree will not be eligible for the RIBA/ARB Part 1 exemption.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Prior qualifications necessary for entry to the programme, including English language requirements.

From 2017 entry, typical offers:

- A-LEVEL AAB or equivalent
- IB 32-34 points
- BTEC DDD
- UCAS 136 points

Points may be counted from qualifications equivalent to 3 A-levels only. We strongly recommend that one of your A-level or A-level equivalent subjects is Art, Design, or Design and Technology.

Applicants will need to provide a portfolio (eg sketches, freehand/technical drawings, life drawings, 3D models, paintings, photographs) and normally an interview. See the link for portfolio guidance: <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/courses/undergraduate/2012/tde/arch-portfolio-guidance>

Selected candidates will be invited for an interview which includes a short visual awareness test. The interviewer will look for evidence of motivation, general creativity and breadth of interest, and will expect to be shown work which demonstrates creative ability of some kind. Any such work may be presented, including art work where no formal course has been followed.

Candidates who live overseas and cannot attend for interview will be evaluated by portfolio. A data stick with photographs or scanned images of your creative artistic work is preferred. The portfolio should contain a variety of different types of work and should be large enough to give the assessor an idea of the candidate's creative ability.

The university's general entry requirements are: <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/undergraduate-courses/>

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

As part of the School of Architecture's strategy to link research, teaching and practice, design studio tutors are drawn from eminent architectural practices, ensuring the relevance and dynamism of the design studio work. The School of Architecture and the student society host regular guest lectures from practicing architects and designers. The end of year show, the newsletter, the website, various unit blogs and the end of year yearbook exhibit the work of the school to the profession, other schools of architecture and beyond. The school regularly offers the opportunity to take part in "live projects": real projects, clients and sites, normally in the local community and sometimes in collaboration with local professionals or trade bodies.

Graduates intending to continue to take their Part 2 spend a year out working in practice. After their Part 2, they spend a minimum of one more year in practice before taking the Part 3 examination that leads to the title "Architect".

Graduates of the School of Architecture are highly regarded within the profession so a large number of students go on to complete their Parts 2 and 3 in order to qualify as registered architects, some working in the UK and some abroad. Some students choose to pursue further related study through Masters courses and PhD's. Other career paths that some of our graduates have taken are: architectural journalist / writer, academics and researchers, 3D digital realisation / animation, film makers, set design, exhibition design, event design / coordination, web design, participatory design, urban design, interior design, fashion design, fine art, photography, graphics design.

APPENDIX 1

Grid showing which RIBA / ARB / EU Criteria are fostered by which modules

Learning outcomes, listed below, integrate the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement (Sept 2010), and the RIBA/ARB/EU Part 1 Criteria (2010)

4 = Level 4 (Basic) Year 1; 5 = Level 5 (Advanced) Years 2&3; 6 = Level 6 (Honours) Year 3.
Levels 5+6 meet the Part 1 RIBA / ARB Criteria

RIBA / ARB / EU Part 1 Criteria	00 Introduction to Architectural Design 1	01 Introduction to Architectural Design 2	21 Architectural Design 1	22 Architectural Design 2	74 Architectural Design 3	92 Architectural Design 4	08 Introductory Technology	20 Architectural Technology and Precedent	73 Advanced Architectural Technology	07 Introduction to Architectural History and Theory	25 Issues in Architectural History and Theory	99 Dissertation	06 Architecture and Society	24 Cities, Culture and Society	72 Management, Practice and Law	04 Architectural Representation	23 Digital Culture
GC1 Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements The graduate will have sufficient skills to:																	
prepare and present building design projects of diverse scale, complexity, and type in a variety of contexts, using a range of media, and in response to a brief	4	4	5		6												5
understand the constructional and structural systems, the environmental strategies and the regulatory requirements that apply to the design and construction of a comprehensive design project						6			6								
develop a conceptual and critical approach to architectural design that integrates and satisfies the aesthetic aspects of a building	4	4	5		6												
develop a conceptual and critical approach to architectural design that integrates and satisfies the technical requirements of its construction and the needs of the user	4	4		5		6	4	5									
GC2 Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences The graduate will have knowledge of:																	
the cultural, social, intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings										4	5	6	4				
the influence of history and theory on the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture					6					4	5	6					
the application of appropriate theoretical concepts to studio design projects, demonstrating a reflective and critical approach.			5														

RIBA / ARB / EU Part 1 Criteria	00 Introduction to Architectural Design 1	01 Introduction to Architectural Design 2	21 Architectural Design 1	22 Architectural Design 2	74 Architectural Design 3	92 Architectural Design 4	08 Introductory Technology	20 Architectural Technology and Precedent	73 Advanced Architectural Technology	07 Introduction to Architectural History	25 Issues in Architectural History and Theory	99 Dissertation	06 Architecture and Society	24 Cities, Culture and Society	72 Management, Practice and Law	04 Architectural Representation	23 Digital Culture
GC3 Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design The graduate will have knowledge of:																	
how the theories, practices and technologies of the arts influence architectural design										4	5					4	
the creative application of the fine arts and their relevance and impact on architecture					6					4	5		4			4	
the creative application of such work to studio design projects, in terms of their conceptualisation and representation																	5
GC4 Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process The graduate will have knowledge of:																	
theories of urban design and the planning of communities														5			
the influence of the design and development of cities, past and present on the contemporary built environment														5			
current planning policy and development control legislation, including social, environmental and economic aspects, and the relevance of these to design development															6		
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 The graduate will have an understanding of:																	
The needs and aspirations of users			5		6		5						4	5			
the impact of buildings on the environment , and the precepts of sustainable design				5			4							5			
The way in which buildings fit into their local context	4			5													

RIBA / ARB / EU Part 1 Criteria	00 Introduction to Architectural Design 1	01 Introduction to Architectural Design 2	21 Architectural Design 1	22 Architectural Design 2	74 Architectural Design 3	92 Architectural Design 4	08 Introductory Technology	20 Architectural Technology and Precedent	73 Advanced Architectural Technology	07 Introduction to Architectural History	25 Issues in Architectural History and Theory	99 Dissertation	06 Architecture and Society	24 Cities, Culture and Society	72 Management, Practice and Law	04 Architectural Representation	23 Digital Culture
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 The graduate will have an understanding of:																	
the nature of professionalism and the duties and responsibilities of architects to clients, building users, constructors, co-professionals and society as a whole					6								4		6		
the role of the architect within the design team and construction industry, recognising the importance of current methods and trends in the construction of the built environment															6		
the potential impact of building projects on existing and proposed communities			5											5			
GC7 Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project The graduate will have an understanding of:																	
The need to critically review precedents relevant to the function, organisation, and technological strategy of design projects		4		5				5									
The need to appraise and prepare building briefs of diverse scales and types to define client and user requirements, and their appropriateness to site and context					6	6											
the contributions of architects and co-professionals to the formulation of the brief, and the methods of investigation used in its preparation															6		
GC8 Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design The graduate will have an understanding of:																	
the investigation, critical appraisal and selection of alternative structural, constructional and material systems relevant to architectural design						6											
strategies for building construction, and ability to integrate knowledge of structural theories and construction techniques				5				6									
the physical properties and characteristics of building materials, components and systems, and the environmental impact of specification choices	4						4	5									

RIBA / ARB / EU Part 1 Criteria	00 Introduction to Architectural Design 1	01 Introduction to Architectural Design 2	21 Architectural Design 1	22 Architectural Design 2	74 Architectural Design 3	92 Architectural Design 4	08 Introductory Technology	20 Architectural Technology and Precedent	73 Advanced Architectural Technology	07 Introduction to Architectural History	25 Issues in Architectural History and Theory	99 Dissertation	06 Architecture and Society	24 Cities, Culture and Society	72 Management, Practice and Law	04 Architectural Representation	23 Digital Culture
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 The graduate will have an adequate knowledge of:																	
principles associated with designing optimum visual, thermal and acoustic environments							4	5	6								
systems for environmental comfort realised within relevant precepts of sustainable design	4							5									
strategies for building services and ability to integrate these in a design project						6			6								
GC10 The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations The graduate will have the skills to:																	
critically examine the financial factors implied in varying building types, constructional systems, and specification choices, and the impact of these on architectural design														6			
understand the cost control mechanisms which operate during the development of a project														6			
prepare designs that will meet building users' requirements and comply with UK legislation, appropriate performance standards and health and safety requirements						6			6								

RIBA / ARB / EU Part 1 Criteria	00 Introduction to Architectural Design 1	01 Introduction to Architectural Design 2	21 Architectural Design 1	22 Architectural Design 2	74 Architectural Design 3	92 Architectural Design 4	08 Introductory Technology	20 Architectural Technology and Precedent	73 Advanced Architectural Technology	07 Introduction to Architectural History	25 Issues in Architectural History and Theory	99 Dissertation	06 Architecture and Society	24 Cities, Culture and Society	72 Management, Practice and Law	04 Architectural Representation	23 Digital Culture
GC11 Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning The graduate will have an adequate knowledge of:																	
the fundamental legal, professional and statutory responsibilities of the architect, and the organisations, regulations and procedures involved in the negotiation and approval of architectural designs, including land law, development control, building regulations and health and safety legislation															6		
the professional inter-relationships of individuals and organisations involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects, and how these are defined through contractual and organisational structures															6		
the basic management theories and business principles related to running both an architects' practice and architectural projects, recognising current and emerging trends in the construction industry													4		6		