

Study architecture, building and planning in the UK

Where can I study architecture, building and planning?

There are 46 architecture schools to choose from in the UK, including two of the best in the world. You'll also find a wide range of courses in related subjects, from building and landscape and garden design to urban, rural, and regional planning – everything you need to lay the foundations for a global career in construction.

What do architects, builders and planners do?

Architects design and create the drawings and plans that are used to create buildings. The exact function and size of those buildings could vary enormously, from a skyscraper to a swimming pool, a housing estate, or the refurbishment of a historic landmark. Whatever the project, an architect will be required to create a technical plan that ensures the end result is attractive, functional and structurally sound.

Typical daily tasks for an architect might include:

- Using CAD software to create detailed technical plan
- Working alongside planners to incorporate building laws and safety regulations
- Discussing budgets with the client
- Overseeing construction
- Selecting the right materials for the build

Planners oversee the various aspects of planned building projects, surveying sites and checking that everything adheres to local laws and regulations.

Builders assemble the materials according to the plans and oversee the actual assembly of the whole process into a finished structure.

What is the application process?

To be eligible for an architecture, building or planning degree, you generally need three A levels with grades AAB for the most popular courses. Qualifications in mathematics, science and art and design – and strong writing and drawing skills – are beneficial but not essential.

The typical requirement for International Baccalaureate is 32 points, with IELTS usually 6.5 overall, and no lower than 6.0 in any one component.

What is the course structure for architecture?

To work as an architect, you will usually need to undertake at least seven years of training. This consists of three distinct stages.

Part 1 – an approved first degree in architecture, which generally takes three or four years.

Stage 1 practical experience – a 12-month period of supervised professional experience in architects' practice or another sector of the building industry.

Part 2 - two more years of study are then required to give you the deep knowledge of architecture required to practise professionally. This can be completed as a full-time university course or as work-based study.

Stage 2 practical experience – another 12 months of supervised and recorded professional experience is then required to make you eligible to sit the Part 3 examination.

Part 3 – a written and oral exam in professional practice and management is the final hurdle. Once you've completed this examination, you can apply for registration and chartership.

Why is the UK a good choice for architecture, building and planning?

The UK has an exceptional heritage when it comes to building – from architecture to planning and construction – and that expertise continues to shape the built environment in the UK and around the world.

With an architecture sector that contributes £3.6bn in UK revenue alone, and a construction sector valued at £110bn, the sheer breadth of expertise and projects means you won't struggle to make connections as you progress.

Not only that, you'll be able to visit some of the most famous buildings in the world for inspiration, before graduating with a world-class qualification that is in high demand worldwide.

Are there any scholarships for architecture?

Thanks to the UK's prestigious history in architecture, a wide range of architecture scholarships are available for international students. These include the ECA Taught Masters Scholarships at the University of Edinburgh, the Hodgkinson Scholarship at Oxford Brookes University, a PhD in Architecture Studentship at the University of Strathclyde and five Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Wren Insurance Association Scholarships.

You can also choose to apply for one of the more high-profile opportunities such as Chevening Scholarships, which are open to residents of any country to apply.

What are my work options after I graduate?

All kinds of salaried architect roles exist across public and private sectors globally, from small practices to SMEs and large firms. You may choose to specialise in one sector – such as retail or

manufacturing – or alternatively go into teaching and research. Many architects choose to remain self-employed and work as consultants on an ad hoc basis.

The average starting salary for a newly qualified architect is £20,000 and a wide range of professional development opportunities are also set up for junior positions. Many large firms will offer structured training and guidance in helping you become chartered, if that's a route you would like to pursue.

International students who have completed an undergraduate or master's degree can apply to stay and work in the UK for two years upon graduation, through the Graduate Route.

To find out more about studying architecture, building and planning in the UK and to find a course, visit Study UK study-uk.britishcouncil.org/