

BA Honours Architecture
Ariana Alexander-Sefre

The course is just right as it gradually takes me into architectural concepts, rather than throwing me straight into the deep end. There is also a great mix of people here and I'm very happy with my choice.



Other related areas/courses you might be interested in: Architectural Technology BSc Honours (p123)

Architecture BA Honours/BSc Honours • Architecture (Architectural Engineering) BSc Honours • Architecture (Interior Design) BA Honours • Architecture (Urban Design) BA Honours

Architecture is a fascinating subject involving a wide range of academic, practical and vocational activities. It requires creativity, imagination, and technical and practical know-how, and encourages in-depth study of the arts, history and the cultural context of environments and societies. Architecture is normally studied with a view to becoming a professional architect but it is also an excellent vehicle for other career choices and further academic study at postgraduate level.

You will develop a broad range of skills and interests throughout the course, reflecting the diversity, richness and sophistication of the subject. Architecture, by definition, is pluralistic and, in consequence, variations within the general theme of architecture are offered in the form of pathways in Year 1 and Year 2 (Credit Levels 5 and 6), which may influence your career patterns within the profession and related disciplines. All pathways give exemption from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Part 1.

Course content

The usual pattern of academic and professional development involves full-time study at undergraduate level for three years (Part 1), followed by a year of practical training. Two further years of full-time postgraduate study (Part 2) are then undertaken, followed by another year of practical training and a period of part-time study, culminating in a final exam (Part 3) to qualify for entry to the Architects Registration Board (ARB).

Most modules are core but you will have a choice of options which, where relevant, will be largely determined by your chosen pathway. The options are integrated within studio-based design projects along with knowledge, abilities and skills generated by lectures in technical studies, cultural context and other subjects. Design projects, which require the development of associated manual and CAD-based presentation skills, are taught in small groups at Year 1 (Credit Level 4) and in 'vertical' studios at Year 2 and Year 3 (Credit Levels 5 and 6). This work forms the basis of your design portfolio which, eventually, will be a testament of your achievement when applying for postgraduate courses or employment.

The department has excellent, purpose-designed studio accommodation, workshops and CAD labs with an impressive range of equipment and software.

The course is prescribed by the ARB and validated by RIBA.

Architecture (Architectural Engineering) BSc Honours

You will undertake lecture-based option modules, tutorials and seminars involving testing and examination of structural members, structural and constructional detailing, low energy and environmental design principles, and heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems. Design project work is also explored in Year 2 and Year 3 (Credit Levels 5 and 6). With this award you may choose to join multi-disciplinary design practices where architects, structural, building services and environmental engineers work in an integrated fashion, often sharing specific design and performance objectives.

Architecture (Interior Design) BA Honours

You will undertake lecture-based option modules, tutorials and seminars involving the three-dimensional exploration of interior architecture, spatial analysis and understanding, circulation patterns, the design of furniture, fittings and equipment, and the use and interpretation of colour, texture and lighting and other associated criteria. Design project work is also explored in Year 2 and Year 3 (Credit Levels 5 and 6). With this award you may choose a career in interior design rather than registering as an architect, or you may decide on a period of work experience and return for a further course of study at Masters level.

Architecture (Urban Design) BA Honours

You undertake lecture-based option modules, tutorials and seminars involving the three-dimensional exploration of groups of buildings, usually within the context of a city or other development. Methodologies of analysing and interpreting human experiences within urban domains are also introduced, principally in the form of mapping, topological studies and appraisal of exterior spaces and environments. Design project work is also explored in Year 2 and Year 3 (Credit Levels 5 and 6). With this award you may choose to develop a career as an urban designer by continuing your education within planning or other related disciplines dealing with urban renewal and regeneration and not, necessarily, seek registration as an architect.

Teaching and assessment

There are no formal written exams, and students are assessed on their design portfolio (design project work) and an academic portfolio which includes essays and other assignments. Visual and oral presentations are required during the course, usually in the form of individual or group seminars, tutorials and 'crits'. The latter are presentations of design project work (including 2D and 3D drawn work, digital or manual, rendered images, physical and virtual models) to a panel of critics comprising teaching staff, students and invited guests.

Study visits, student exchange and work experience

You are encouraged to explore the built environment in the UK and abroad, and to develop a curiosity about the history and context of cities and the provenance and evolution of architecture. Such exploration involves visits to construction sites, completed buildings, exhibitions and galleries with a view to enhancing your awareness and appreciation of historic and contemporary architecture. Year 2 (Credit Level 5) includes a compulsory field trip, usually to an important and interesting European city. Formal exchanges between architecture courses in approved institutions are encouraged on an individual basis. Year 3 (Credit Level 6) includes a work experience week.

Year out short course – first period of Practical Training Experience

If you are intending to seek registration as an architect you are required to undertake your first year of Practical Training Experience in an architects' office (or related discipline). The department offers a short course during this time in which staff act as Practical Training Advisers providing a series of attendant lectures, office visits, seminars and discussion groups. The entry requirement is completion of a degree in Architecture with Part 1 exemption.

Length of course

Three-year, full-time with optional pathways in Architectural Engineering, Interior Design and Urban Design

UCAS codes

Architecture K100
 Architecture (Architectural Engineering) K236
 Architecture (Interior Design) K1W2
 Architecture (Urban Design) K1K4

Location

Central London (Marylebone)

Typical offer for September 2009

Qualification type	Grade/points
A Levels	ABB
International Baccalaureate	28 points
BTEC National Diploma	DDM

If you are from a non art-related background you may be asked to submit a portfolio in order to help demonstrate your creative ability, technical knowledge and the required level of motivation or experience.

See also entry requirements on p48.

For further information about Architecture courses visit the School of Architecture and Built Environment website at www.westminster.ac.uk/sabe

Interior Architecture BA Honours

Interior architecture is a distinct and separate discipline from the professionally validated Architecture degrees and its specific focus is the creation of innovative and exciting design solutions primarily through the adaptation and spatial manipulation of existing buildings. The course promotes a critical approach to design, acknowledging the importance of other closely related areas of three-dimensional design in shaping interiors.

As well as consolidating existing skills you will study the theories that inform the creation of both utility and beauty, and master the practical skills required to fully realise design ideas. Light, colour, materiality and the more tectonic aspects of design will reinforce your understanding of the processes involved in visualising interior space.

The course provides as wide an exposure to design as possible, enabling you to cultivate your particular interests in a variety of areas of design.

Course content

All modules on the course are core and are specifically tailored to enable students from a variety of backgrounds and skill sets to contribute fully to the course. Technical skills, cultural context, design management and economics, and the commercial aspects of interiors are integrated with design projects at all levels.

The design modules promote creativity, aesthetic sensibility and intellectual enquiry, together with the skills needed to work individually and in groups in developing design proposals. Design projects are taught in small groups in Year 1 (Credit Level 4) and students in Year 2 and 3 (Credit Levels 5 and 6) are organised within a vertical studio system which facilitates peer-group learning. The work produced in the design studios forms the basis of a student's design portfolio through which you will prepare for practice/employment, or in support of your application for postgraduate study.

The department has excellent, purpose-designed studio accommodation, workshops with technical support and CAD laboratories with an impressive range of equipment and up-to-date software which matches industry standard.

Study visits and student exchange

London has a rich and varied range of galleries, museums and cultural venues which promote art and design relevant to the development of Interior Architecture students. Where appropriate, group visits will be undertaken to disseminate and record exhibitions and talks, in support of work undertaken within the course.

The course also offers the opportunity to take advantage of exchange links in Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as EU countries through the Erasmus/Socrates programme, which may tempt you to a career abroad.

Length of course

Three-year, full-time

UCAS code

W250

Location

Central London (Marylebone)

Teaching and assessment

All assessments are by design portfolio, design project work and an academic portfolio. Visual and oral presentations are required at a number of key stages in the course, usually in the form of individual or group seminars, tutorials and presentations of design project work (including 2D and 3D drawn work, digital or manual, rendered images, physical and virtual models) to a panel of critics comprising teaching staff, students and invited guests.

Associated careers

The course will give you a unique insight and ability to practice in a variety of areas of design, including interior design, exhibition design, set and lighting design, retail and product design, and interior conservation. Graduates can take a post-graduate qualification at Westminster in a range of subjects including Interior Design, Cultural Identity and Globalisation, and Architecture and Digital Media.

Typical offer for September 2009

Qualification type	Grade/points
A Levels	BBB
International Baccalaureate	26 points
BTEC National Diploma	DDM

Alternatively an Art and Design Foundation plus a portfolio of work or account of experience to the admissions office, verified by the course leader or course admissions tutor, plus a personal statement which clearly articulates why the student wants to study on the course.

See also entry requirements on p48.