

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

◆ Awarding Body	Ravensbourne University London
◆ Teaching Institution	Ravensbourne University London
◆ Final award	BA (Hons) Architecture
◆ UCAS Code	K100
◆ QAA Benchmark Statement	Art and Design Architecture
◆ Date of production/revision	January 2016

◆ **Programme Aims**

This course aims to develop skills in the design of buildings and innovative spaces where we live, work and relax. It will offer the opportunity to explore the functional, expressive and social impact of new construction technology. It will encourage the development of an understanding of the interactions between people, activities and places, and the way the environment can influence mood and behaviour.

The Department of Architecture at Ravensbourne takes a multidisciplinary approach to the design of the environment that positions Architecture alongside landscape architecture and interior design in an innovative educational context that belongs both to the world of contemporary visual culture and design and the academic rigour of traditional professions.

Working in state-of-the-art studios, students develop practical design knowledge through project work learning from experienced academic staff, practising designers and researchers. Studio projects are supported by lectures and seminars to develop knowledge of history and contemporary practice and by technical input to develop practical skills.

The course encourages students to develop their own approach to the subject and in particular:

- a range of creative, technical, cognitive (intellectual) and professional skills relevant to employment in architectural practice or related built environment professions;
- a comprehensive knowledge of contemporary practice and the creative processes in the professional field and an awareness of current areas of development and innovation in the context of 21st Century environmental issues;
- the ability to creatively apply research skills (analysis, problem solving, critical reflection) and communications skills (visual, written and verbal) required of a graduate
- the skills required to pursue future postgraduate study in design related specialisms;
- an understanding that design competencies are highly transferable skills to areas beyond built environment professions

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

◆ Programme Outcomes

The course provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. On completion of the course students will have acquired:

Knowledge and Understanding

A1 knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related cultural influence of the arts, technologies and human sciences.

A2 understanding of the alternative materials, processes and techniques that apply to design and construction;

A3 knowledge of the professional context of the architect / designer / landscape architect and the construction industry, and the professional qualities needed for decision making in complex and unpredictable circumstances;

A4 knowledge of environmental conditions and the technologies and systems available to deal with them

A5 knowledge of the industries, organizations, regulations and procedures involved in the physical realisation of design proposals

A6 knowledge of the drawings and other graphic and presentation skills used in the communication of design ideas and proposals

Learning and teaching methods

Learning and teaching is primarily project based (see Subject Specific and Professional Skills below). This is supported by varied learning methods which may include as appropriate; project briefings, studio based presentations seminars, technical or practical workshops, demonstrations, critiques, individual or group tutorials and self-directed study.

Traditional modes of delivery may be supported where appropriate by e-learning and or resource based learning.

Learning is facilitated by well-qualified permanent teaching staff, and by sessional staff and visiting speakers who are practising designers bringing an important industry perspective to the course.

Contextual and theoretical learning is delivered both as an integral part of the Studio Units and separately in a progressive series of lectures and seminars

Assessment

Knowledge and understanding is assessed through texts, reports, individual and group presentations and through its application in design projects in a manner appropriate to each unit. Some units additionally require the submission of rationales, background research, development materials and evidence of reflection on process.

Values and Attitudes

B1 the ability and awareness to be responsive to a broad and diverse range of others' interests e.g. stakeholders clients, users, other built environment professionals

B2 an understanding of the social, political and ethical concerns raised by a

Learning and teaching methods

The project briefs are structured to develop students' awareness and understanding of the cultural and ethical issues that design proposals may raise.

These are supported by seminar discussions, talks and visits as appropriate

Assessment

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

<p>design brief, e.g. diversity, sustainability,</p>	<p>Values and attitudes are assessed through project presentations, essays, and supporting research material attached to the rationale of projects. Evidence of reflection and the ability to provide cogent arguments and an understanding of ethical considerations, is evidenced through presentations, development materials, and process led investigation.</p>
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<p>Cognitive and Intellectual Skills</p> <p>the ability to:</p> <p>C1 survey - observe critically the context for the design brief. Record analyse, interpret and present observations,</p> <p>C2 research – develop ways to collect and manage data and material to research relevant issues and concerns,</p> <p>C3 analyse - to interpret and evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions,</p> <p>C4 Speculate – to think imaginatively about what might be,</p> <p>C5 organise – to structure thought processes, to develop working methods for both written and design work and to make and present sound judgements,</p> <p>C6 reflect - to record, reflect on and evaluate methods processes and proposals,</p> <p>C7 to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required for further professional education.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching methods</p> <p>Cognitive and Intellectual skills are a key element of Studio Units, lectures, reading, participation in seminar discussions, workshops, individual tutorials, study visits and independent study</p> <p>Students are introduced to a variety of research and analytical methods through the History & Theory Units and apply them in a dissertation in the third year (Level 6) of the course.</p> <p>Project based learning stimulates imagination, analysis, contextual and visual research, problem solving, creative thinking and personal reflection.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Cognitive and Intellectual skills are assessed through a variety of means including essays, presentations and a dissertation. Some elements are assessed through their application in submitted project work. This may include rationales, background research, development materials and/or evidence of reflection on the process of development in addition to practical material.</p>
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PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Subject Specific and Professional Skills

the ability to :

D1 identify a meaningful design project – finding and or framing a brief which deals with both the practical (material and /or physical considerations;) and conceptual (questions embedded, asked or raised) aspects,

D2 find and develop a method of designing; ideational strategies, thinking and creative actions,

D3 develop techniques and skills and use appropriate technologies to produce designs to a high standard,

D4 manage the planning and timing (including resources), of a design project, developing the ability to recognise and manage decision points and to complete on time,

D5 effectively communicate all aspects of the design proposition to different audiences. Use appropriate descriptive and analytical models, prototypes, sketches, orthographic projections and computer programmes as part of the process and final presentation as appropriate.

Learning and teaching methods

Subject Specific and Professional skills are gained primarily through design projects

Supported by tutorial staff, students work on project briefs designed to foster creative, technical and intellectual skills while progressively introducing complexities, professional contexts and constraints.

This student–led approach, encourages deep learning, builds problem solving ability and integrates the learning of thinking skills with practical skills. Students learn progressively to take responsibility for their own learning. Some projects encourage team working and some allow for collaboration with students from other disciplines.

Projects are supported by briefings, studio lectures, workshops, critiques, seminars and independent study. Learning is facilitated by experienced academics and by sessional staff and visiting speakers who are practising professionals and bring an important industry perspective to the course. These methods may be supported where appropriate by e learning and / or resource-based learning. The project based approach culminates in independently negotiated project work in the final year (Level 6) of the course.

Assessment

Practical and professional skills are assessed primarily through their application in project work. Some units additionally require the submission of rationales, background research, development materials and/or evidence of reflection on the process of development. An individual or group presentation may form part of the assessment requirements of some projects.

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Skills (Transferable)
<p>the ability to:</p> <p>E1 think creatively (lateral thinking / design thinking),</p> <p>E2 develop effective team working skills and to work collaboratively with other disciplines,</p> <p>E3 work independently,</p> <p>E4 find manage and apply information from a variety of sources,</p> <p>E5 organise and communicate ideas effectively (practically, graphically, orally and in writing),</p> <p>E6 manage time effectively,</p> <p>E7 critically reflect on own and others' ideas.</p>

Learning and teaching methods
<p>Practical skills in designing and thinking are gained primarily through working on self-directed design projects</p> <p>To emulate a professional situation some projects encourage team working and / or peer learning and may also involve collaborative working with students from other disciplines</p> <p>The project based approach culminates in independently negotiated project work in the final year (Level 6) of the course.</p>
Assessment
<p>Practical and professional skills are assessed primarily through application in project work submitted for summative assessment. Some units also require the submission of rationales, background research, development materials and/or evidence of reflection on the process of development. An individual or group presentation may form part of the assessment requirements of some projects.</p>

◆ Reference Points - The following reference points were used in designing the programme
<p>FHEQ Level 6 FHEQ Level 5 – Dip HE FHEQ Level 4 – Cert HE</p> <p>Subject Benchmarks Art and Design, Architecture ARB Criteria and guidelines</p>

◆ Programme Summary		
Code	Unit	Credit Value
ARC16101	Architectural Theory and History	15
ARC16102	Introduction to Professional and Business Practice	15
ARC16103	Specialist Study 1: Structure	30
ARC16104	Specialist Study 2: Introduction to Construction	30
ARC16105	Specialist Study 3: Introduction to Environment and Services	30
ARC16201	Urbanism: History and Theory of the City	30
ARC16202	Urban Intervention	30
ARC16203	Branded Environments: the new commercial paradigm	30

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

ARC16204	Sustainable Design: Refurbishment and Re-use	30
ARC16301	Dissertation	30
ARC16302	Preparing for Professional Practice	15
ARC16303	Major Project	60
ARC16304	Negotiated Brief	15
	Total	360

Modes

The course is available in a 3 year full-time mode. Students will normally complete the three levels over three academic years (each composed of three terms). An extended full-time mode incorporating an integrated Level 0 foundation level is available to students who lack the creative or academic skills to enter the course at Level 4. Students applying to the extended mode will normally complete in four academic years.

Ravensbourne reserves the right not to offer, and to withdraw a mode where a student cohort is of insufficient number to sustain a viable student experience and when other modes are available for completion.

Transfer of Mode of Attendance

Students are accepted to a particular mode of attendance and normally are expected to complete their studies in that mode.

◆ Distinctive features

Architecture is the design, planning and construction of new buildings. This course combines art, philosophy, technology and ecology with an experimental approach to solve problems connected to the places where we live, work and relax. There are many different specialisms but you could work in architectural and urban design, environmental research, building conservation, heritage matters or community development.

The Department

BA (Hons) Architecture is one of the specialisms within the Department of Architecture in the School of Design. It shares a curriculum with BA (Hons) Interior Design Environment Architectures (IDEAs) and BA (Hons) Urban Landscape Architecture (subject to validation) and it is envisaged that further specialisms will be added in the future. Drawing on the creative synergies and tensions between the different disciplines the Department provides the physical framework and intellectual opportunities for students to meet, learn and work together. The Department fosters a strong relationship between related built environment disciplines based on an approach to the subject matter related to a continuously evolving, cultural context.

Course structure and Curriculum

Most of the work is studio based practical design work. Students complete a series of design projects sometimes with additional elements of work such as reports or short texts. All students work on similar design projects, share studio spaces, attend the same lectures and participate in joint visits and other events. For some projects students will be allocated to smaller tutorial groups with a particular tutor and there will also be opportunities for group working. The curriculum allows each student to focus progressively towards an individual specialism.

The main studio projects are supported by lecture and seminar based classes in History & Theory and Professional & Business Practice. Further support is offered through guest lecturers, workshops and etc. on a project by project basis, to the specialist subjects e.g.

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

enterprise & business, structural engineering, horticulture & planting. There are also evening lectures organised by the Institute of Ideas, opportunities for study visits and accompanied trips to exemplar projects, exhibitions and studios. Town study trips, to Europe and further afield have been organised each year incorporating the opportunity to use a site in an international context.

Level 4 (Year 1)

The first year of the course, introduces the student to the different aspects of built environment study, the design process and the underpinning skills and theory.

On successful completion of the first year (Level 4) of the course and the achievement of the learning outcomes of the units within that level, students are eligible for the award of a Certificate in Higher Education if they withdraw from the course.

Level 5 (Year 2)

The second year of the course, shifts towards interpretation of knowledge gained and the application of the skills acquired in Level 4 in the creative process and explores the subject specialisms in more depth.

On successful completion of Level 4 and Level 5 of the course, and achievement of all the learning outcomes of the units within these levels, students are eligible for the award of a Diploma in Higher Education if they withdraw from the course.

Level 6 (Year 3)

For the final year of the course, students develop individual, independent lines of enquiry focused in their specialist subject (Architecture / Interior Design / Urban Landscape Architecture). A major design project and dissertation allows them to build on the practical and theoretical elements in earlier years

Each year of the course is made up of a series of units (sometimes called modules) which are separately assessed pieces of work. Some units are shared, i.e. all students in the Department take part and some are Specialist, only for students on a particular course. In addition the units will also provide the opportunity to develop a range of other core (sometimes called transferrable) skills.

Shared units

Shared units allow students to gain skills which are common across the specialist subject areas, and to work together on collaborative projects in the kinds of interdisciplinary teams common in industry. Shared Studio units introduce students to the process of design, design thinking and the necessary practical skills. Shared units in History & Theory provide a broader basis for developing critical knowledge and understanding.

Core Skills / Transferrable skills / Graduate attributes

Core skills provide a model of the types of knowledge needed in future careers

Communication skills - CAD and manual drawing techniques, presentation software

Thinking skills - the ability to articulate an intellectual, theoretical and critical awareness of the subject, both located within practice and in a broader context.

Professional contexts – understanding of real world legislative frameworks, business practice, networks and social media, promotional and marketing tools

Practical skills - workshop skills for fabrication and model making, the creative use of digital technology including rapid prototyping

Students can also take advantage of a range of short courses offered by Ravensbourne

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

such as portfolio tips, life drawings, software updates or pitching for work.

Specialist Units

These are design projects for students in each of the three disciplines in the Department. These mostly take place during the second year of the course and will run in parallel so that it is still possible to work alongside students from the other disciplines. These offer the opportunity to develop the basic skills and knowledge gained to focus on particular knowledge and skills relevant the specialist discipline in more depth.

On graduation / Graduate attributes

Graduates will leave Ravensbourne equipped with knowledge and skills in architecture. They will also have experience of team working, inter disciplinary collaboration, and the entrepreneurial skills and broader business awareness necessary to survive, succeed and innovate in the creative professions.

◆ Recruitment and Admissions

Admission Policy/Selection Criteria

Ravensbourne will use a number of methods to assess an applicant's suitability for their course of choice. Primarily applicants are selected on the basis of:

- an applicant's prior academic achievement / qualifications and/or previous employment / life experience;
- assessment of the applicant's ability and aptitude to succeed on the course for which s/he has applied.

Students will be selected according to the generic criteria set out below:

- personal attributes
- shows commitment, enthusiasm and interest in the subject area
- initiative and problem solving
- ability to communicate

Creative process

- can generate ideas and use external sources to develop them
- ability to research an idea and follow it through to a finished product

Study skills

- can understand and organise information clearly
- can investigate and analyse information
- shows reasoning and intellectual curiosity

Professional skills

- has shown they can initiate and deliver projects
- can work in a team and with people with different skills
- has shown confidence with IT

Career aspirations

- understands the relevance of the course to her/his career ambitions

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understands current debates within industry
<p>Accreditation of Prior Learning</p>	<p>Applications are welcomed from those who may not possess formal entry qualifications, mature students, those with work experience or with qualifications other than those listed above. Such applicants should demonstrate sufficient aptitude and potential to complete the course successfully. Applicants will be assessed at interview in accordance with Ravensbourne's Accreditation of Prior Learning Policy and Procedure.</p> <p>Where an applicant's first language is not English, proof of competence in English will be required. This will normally take the form of an approved English language test at B2 level, in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference. This should have been achieved within the last 18 months prior to commencement of the course.</p>
<p>Entry Requirements</p>	<p>Students will normally be expected to possess five GCSEs (grade C or above) or equivalent (including English and Mathematics) and also to hold at least one of the following or equivalent UK or international qualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 A Levels (grades A-C) or 4 AS Levels (grades A-C) • 2 vocational A Level (grades A-C) • Level 3 Foundation Diploma or National Diploma • Advanced Diploma (grades A-C) • International Baccalaureate (28 points or above)

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

◆ Course Diagram

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Level 4		
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Specialist study 1: Structure ARC16103 30	Specialist study 2: Introduction to Construction ARC16104 30	Specialist study 3: Introduction to Environment and Services ARC14105 30
Architectural Theory and History ARC16101 15		
	Introduction to Professional and Business Practice ARC16102 15	

Level 5		
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Urban Intervention ARC16202 30	Branded Environments: the new commercial paradigm ARC16203 30	Sustainable Design: Refurbishment and Re-use ARC16204 30
Urbanism: History and Theory of the City ARC16201 30		

Level 6		
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Negotiated Brief ARC16304 15	Major Project ARC16303 60	
Dissertation ARC16301 30	Preparing for Professional Practice ARC16302 15	

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) Architecture Course Diagram

Week	Term 1											Term 2											Term 3											32 W	33		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
Level 4	Specialist Study 1: Structure ARC16103 - 30 credits											Specialist Study 2: Introduction to Construction ARC16104 - 30 credits											Specialist Study 3: Introduction to Environment and Services ARC16105 - 30 credits											O	H		
	Architectural Theory and History ARC16101 – 15 credits											Introduction to Professional and Business Practice ARC16102 – 15 credits																								S	
Level 5	Urban Intervention ARC16202 - 30credits											Branded Environments: the new commercial paradigm ARC16203 - 30 credits											Sustainable Design: Refurbishment and Re-use ARC16204 - 30 credits											R	E		
	Urbanism: History and Theory of the City – ARC16201 – 30 credits																																			G	D
Level 6	Negotiated Brief ARC16304 - 15 credits											Major Project ARC16303 - 60 credits																						G	D		
	Dissertation ARC16301 - 30 credits											Preparing for Professional Practice ARC16302 - 15 credits																								E	D

Studio Units

History & Theory

Professional Practice

Weeks 6, 17 & 28 Enhancement weeks

Week 17 Study Trip Y1

Week 22 Study Trip Y3

All Units except Level 5 Studio Units, Level 4 ARC16105 and ARC16303, are shared with students from BA(Hons) IDEAs and BA(Hons) Urban Landscape Architecture

Level 4 Studio Unit ARC16105 is shared with students from BA (Hons) IDEAs only.

Level 6 Studio Unit ARC16303 is shared with students from BA (Hons) Urban Landscape Architecture only.

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Please note, this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each unit can be found in the Course Handbook, Unit Specifications and Project Briefs. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by Ravensbourne and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.