What is Architecture?

Architecture is almost everything we see, touch and feel. We all know what a bad building feels like but what are the ingredients that make a good one? Historically they have been commodity, firmness and delight. Translated into today's terms, these might become sustainability, achieved through the considered use of technology, science and art. It is this broad mix of Humanities, Arts and Science that makes Architecture so exciting, and interesting, but it's also what makes it so complex. An architect needs to be able to juggle all of these competing concerns while still retaining sight of their vision and producing work which still delights!

Why study Architecture at Bath?

Joint Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, unique in the UK.

As the only joint department of Architecture and Civil Engineering in the UK, we believe that there are real benefits in educating architects and engineers together wherever appropriate. The increasing sophistication of building technologies means that all major projects are designed by teams, and teamwork is a skill which Bath graduates develop throughout the programme. The main focus for collaboration is the design studio where projects are developed through drawings, models and calculations. Thus, we produce creative architects with a profound social, technical and theoretical understanding of their profession who are able to lead projects informed by a holistic approach to design.

Integrated professional practice

The four year thin sandwich programme is a distinctive feature of the BSc at Bath. Whereas students on a standard architectural programme spend three continuous years at university followed by a year in placement, our students spend the latter half of the second and third year of study in placement. We believe this provides a more robust and holistic education since students are able to apply their university learning in a practical context at an early stage. It also allows them to produce more mature designs in the studio, as they bring their professional experience to bear on their design projects in later years. Students are paid by their employer whilst on placement, giving them an opportunity to alleviate the financial constraints of being an undergraduate.

Study opportunity in Europe

The BSc is one of the few programmes offering the opportunity to study at various leading European universities. This is accomplished through the ERASMUS exchange programme during the first semester of the third year when an equivalent number of students from European schools arrive to take part in our programme giving the third year a distinctively international flavour.
Excellent reputation for teaching and employability

Architecture teaching at Bath is recognised as ‘excellent’ by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and is consistently ranked as one of the top departments in UK league tables.

Bath’s graduates are recognised throughout the architectural profession for their high level design abilities and many are currently working in leading practices. The BSc programme in Architecture provides students with exemption from the ARB/RIBA Part 1 professional examinations and gives a thorough introduction to the issues involved in the design and realisation of buildings, as individual forms and within an urban context.

The design studio is central to all architectural work, and the Department is proud of the standards it has maintained in the teaching of design. Teaching in the studios is carried out by academic staff and visiting architects to ensure that the theory and practice of architecture are part of everyday conversations. Students are expected to work in studio to promote discussion and learning. Students have access to work in their studios 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Alongside studio time, a broad range of subjects is taught by lectures. These include sustainability and low-carbon design, history and theory, construction, structural and environmental theory, landscape and ecology, urban design, management and computer aided design. Wherever possible, the teaching of these subjects is integrated with studio projects.

### BSc (Hons) Architecture K100

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<td>History &amp; Theory – Architecture &amp; Towards Sustainability</td>
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Further study and architectural placement leading to MArch RIBA Part 2 and RIBA Part 3
Close student community
The programme has an annual intake of about 90 students into a friendly close-knit department. Staff and students get to know each other well with design studio tutor groups of less than 10 students. Tutors take a keen interest in the welfare and academic progression of their tutees through to graduation day, and often keep in contact over their subsequent careers. There is a strong sense of working together to a common purpose, and many students choose to pursue their postgraduate studies in the Department.

Research excellence
Teaching and research quality is recognised as nationally and internationally leading, and all lecturers are actively involved in research. Much of this feeds directly into the undergraduate teaching, conveying the excitement of the most recent developments in architectural history, theory, environmental design, building technologies and computer aided design. The fundamental drivers for our research are climate change, the history and theory of architecture and innovative and holistic design.

The city of Bath
Bath itself is a World Heritage City, creating an appealing environment in which to live and work. Many graduates stay in the Bath area, keeping social and professional links with the Department, and some even contribute to design tutoring.

Guaranteed accommodation
Accommodation in university rooms is guaranteed for all first year students, so no need to worry about finding somewhere to live.

Excellent facilities on campus. Superb on-campus, world-class sports and social facilities ensure there is plenty to do outside of the lectures

Entry requirements
A typical offer would be A’AA at UK A2 level, 38 points in the International Baccalaureate with Maths with a 6 in higher level or 7 in standard level. No particular subject combination at A Level (or equivalent) is required although we will normally only make offers to applicants offering a balance between the arts or humanities and the sciences. We also take into account evidence of relevant extra curricular activities, work experience or research.
Applicants do not attend interviews. For further details and advice about subject choices and alternative qualifications, visit our on-line prospectus.

www.bath.ac.uk/study/ug/prospectus/subject/architecture
What our students say

Rachel Mundell

6 years is a long time to study a single discipline, but my time at the University of Bath has flown by. Like many people, I wasn’t sure exactly what I wanted to do with my life when I was 18, but I did know that I wanted to be part of an institution that, whilst respected for its academic rigour, would be able to nurture my creative interests.

It was the joint teaching of architecture and engineering in the first degree which first attracted me to Bath. It was clear from the outset that the school understood the fruitful outcome of a collaboration between heart and head in design work.

For me, the crucial and most rewarding part of the training at Bath is the increased complexity between the final project of the Undergraduate and that of the Master’s degree. At the end of 4 years you are given free reign to develop a building project of your choice and in the 6th year you develop a final thesis project, an opportunity to flex previously learned skills on a much larger scale. With the dissertation falling directly between these two projects it is possible to pursue a continual interest in true depth.

The small student numbers in the MArch (typically under 30) allow for close contact with tutors on a regular basis, often with academics and practitioners that may specialise in your particular interest. Finally, the studio space available gives learning at Bath an enviable social atmosphere, fostering fantastic camaraderie amongst students and tutors alike.

John Ng

There is often a misconception about architectural education as likened to learning witchcraft: you are not sure how to learn it, the subject is full of mystery and everyone dresses in black. On the contrary, here in Bath, the light friendly studio atmosphere, the ever-present support and knowledge from a team of enthusiastic and simply indefatigable tutors leave you reassured that your design ideas can be realised.

One of the reasons I chose Bath is its established reputation for producing thoughtful and intelligent works and fostering creative independence. The school’s status as a joint architectural and engineering department reinforces Bath’s ideal of good design as a continuous collaborative process. Bath’s teaching pursues conceptual rigour, multidisciplinary integration and the resolution of the constructed space which continues to shape my thinking.

Something I particularly enjoyed was the rare opportunity and flexibility to define your own brief for the final project of the undergraduate course to showcase your accumulated endeavour. This clearly demonstrates the school’s trust on our maturity and competence. Another unique aspect at Bath is the placement system which ensures a continual feedback between academic and professional development, rather than something stuck on at the end of your education.

Rewinding back to the UCAS open day, what immediately struck me about Bath was the friendliness of the school. This remains true and without exaggeration the four years spent in Bath have been my happiest time so far; not just in terms of the fond memories with friends and anecdotes with tutors, but crucially, there is the sense that I and all the students have genuinely achieved something precious and timeless at the end of studying here.

For more information, contact:
Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering
Email: admissions@bath.ac.uk
www.bath.ac.uk/ace