

**DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

Course Title	<b>BA (Hons) Architecture</b>
Awarding Bodies	<b>University of Suffolk</b>
Level of Award <sup>1</sup>	<b>FHEQ Level 6</b>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	<b>None<sup>2</sup></b>
Credit Structure <sup>3</sup>	<b>360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits</b>
Mode of Attendance	<b>Full-time</b>
Standard Length of Course <sup>4</sup>	<b>3 years full-time</b>
Intended Award	<b>BA (Hons) Architecture</b>
Named Exit Awards	<b>None</b>
Entry Requirements <sup>5</sup>	<b>Applicants are accepted based on their performance in an interview and portfolio review.  Standard tariff points apply. GCSE Maths C required.</b>
Delivering Institution	<b>Ipswich</b>
UCAS Code	<b>K100</b>

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Architecture course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2019-20 academic year<sup>6</sup>.

**Course Summary**

The BA (Hons) Architecture at the University of Suffolk is a rigorous and exciting program with a focus on interdisciplinary making, culture, and the arts. It approaches architecture as a global and eclectic discipline that is art as much as science and merges critical thought and creative production with technological application. The course is uniquely designed to respond to the latest professional and academic standards by approaching architecture as culture and a global discipline, the studio as an agile platform for critique and collaboration and architectural

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> ARB prescription sought in 2018-19. RIBA validation will be sought retrospectively in 2021.

<sup>3</sup> All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

<sup>4</sup> Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

<sup>5</sup> Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

<sup>6</sup> The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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education as a synthesis of theory and praxis. The BA (Hons) Architecture is delivered by an international and forward-thinking team of architects and academics with the direct support of the professional architecture community in Suffolk. This is a vocational as well as academic study programme which is designed to offer exemption from Part 1 qualification exams in Architecture.

### **Course Aims**

Fundamentally, and in response to the Graduate Attributes for Part 1 as prescribed by the Architects' registration Board (ARB)<sup>7</sup> the course aims to:

- Educate students to know and understand the wealth, eclectic nature and diversity of architecture as profession as well academic discipline to produce innovative and groundbreaking designs.
- Offer an interdisciplinary and discursive environment where students become competent in critically and thoroughly evaluating data to form judgements related to theory and practice through systematic research.
- Enable students to become professionally and personally responsible, independent and reliable as to engage in self-inquisitive learning to address and effectively resolve complex and unpredictable issues.

Furthermore, the course aims to:

- Creatively and technically train students in the development of communication and presentations skills based on competent synthesis of conventional and new media as to convey concepts, proposals, and solutions effectively.
- Ensure that students have awareness and understanding of processes, materials and systems as related to building construction as the implementation of architectural design in micro and macro scale within the built environment.
- Instil the values and ethos of the architect as a professional who has knowledge and understanding of the context and their role in the industry. This role is shaped by culture, economy and the demands of the rapidly changing contemporary and future built environments.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Architecture course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)<sup>8</sup> and ARB Generic Criteria for Part 1.

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<sup>7</sup> Prescription of Qualifications: ARB Criteria at Parts 1, 2 and 3, p.7.

<sup>8</sup> As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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### **Level 4**

By the end of level 4, students will have developed:

1. Ability to articulate and present responses to a variety of briefs, sites and contexts, investigating fundamental parameters of architectural design;
2. Skill to engage in mapping observations and reviewing appropriate precedents and case studies in relation to operative, conceptual, or technical appreciation of design;
3. Knowledge and understanding of the influence of arts theories and practices in architecture by application and method, in the context of design conceptualisation and presentation;
4. Knowledge and understanding of user needs and aspirations in the context of developing imaginative and credible designs;
5. Skills to address the role of socio-geographical context in architecture and the influence of the latter on communities, people, and the environment;
6. Understanding of the technical and material properties of building design including awareness of materials, systems, and structures and their representation;
7. Knowledge to design forms, environments, and objects that are comfortable addressing aesthetic, and technical parameters including ergonomics and anthropometrics;
8. Knowledge and understanding of history, theory, and culture as conveyed through academic practice and in relation to the creative side of architecture and design;
9. Skills, and ability to employ a range of creative and technical media and appropriate language to communicate designs using conventions and experimentation.

### **Level 5**

By the end of level 5, students will have developed:

1. Skills to develop conceptually intriguing and original designs that address the users' needs, the clients' intentions, and respond to particular environmental and social agendas;
2. Ability to address and prepare briefs on projects of diverse scale, complexity, and nature formulating systematic investigation and directional research methodologies in practice evaluating findings in a critical manner;
3. Skills to evaluate and apply conventional and alternative strategies of environmental awareness and sustainability as related to contemporary architectural design;
4. Knowledge and understanding of key philosophical and scientific approaches that inform on the discipline and their critical application on practice

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5. Skills and knowledge on the design of cities and communities to include awareness of social and cultural contexts that frame existing and future built environments;
6. Knowledge and understanding of environmental impact and principles of sustainability as related to systems, and services in building design and construction;
7. Ability to employ structural strategies as applied in construction addressing emerging and established methods in the industry as well as the role of the architect in such;
8. Understanding and knowledge of organisation, management and business principles, processes and procedures, to include financial and costing modelling.
9. Skill to critically examine and review thought and practice via methodological engagement in critical dialogue and academic practice via writing;

**Level 6**

By the end of level 6, students will have developed:

1. Understanding of the formal processes for the delivery of projects, including planning, procurement and construction from a legislation and management perspective;
2. Ability to convey the role of the architect in construction and address the responsibility of such to project stakeholders and partners valuing collaboration and organisation;
3. Knowledge to develop technically articulate architectural solutions that integrate construction principles and building services devising innovative systems.
4. Skill to produce conceptually complex ideas in an original and culturally aware manner, employing innovative and experimental methods;
5. Ability to formulate credible approaches to design using appropriate performance standards, cost control mechanisms, and health and safety requirements.
6. Skills, knowledge, and ability to generate proposals and solutions that challenge the boundaries of the discipline academically and professionally.
7. Ability to engage in critical and structured discourse in theory and practice employing appropriate research methodologies reflecting on arts, science, and technology;
8. Skills to present critical arguments and ideas using a wide range of media and sophisticated methods of communication including appropriate terminology.
9. Ability to produce an individual professional profile based on ethical and cultural considerations, engaging in collaborative, interdisciplinary and discursive practice.

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### Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Architecture (2010)
- QAA The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008) at Bachelor's degree with Honours (level 6).
- Prescription of Qualifications: ARB Criteria at Part 1 (2010).
- RIBA Procedures for Validation and Validation Criteria for UK and International Courses and Examinations in Architecture (2011, rev 2014)<sup>9</sup>.

It furthermore acknowledges the:

- Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications<sup>10</sup>.

### Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Architecture comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type <sup>11</sup>
Level 4			
1	Context [fundamentals of history and theory]	20	Mandatory
2	Creative Media [communication in 2D, 3D, 4D]	20	Mandatory
3	Systems [technical drawing, materials, structures]	20	Mandatory
4	Design Synthesis 1 [architectural design studio: site, envelope, user]	60	Mandatory
Level 5			
5	Critical Perspectives [history and theory; research methods]	20	Mandatory
6	Integrated Technology [construction, sustainability, BIM]	20	Mandatory
7	City - Context - Culture [urban and critical design; fabrication]	20	Mandatory
8	Design Synthesis 2 [architectural design studio: integration and regeneration]	60	Mandatory
Level 6			
9	Research [dissertation and special theory topics]	40	Mandatory
10	Professional Practice [roles, regulations, ethos]	20	Mandatory
11	Design Synthesis 3 [architectural design studio: social and environmental agendas]	60	Mandatory

<sup>9</sup> The University and course team will remain alert to and will consider a response to the evolution of its proposed Part 1 curricular structure with reference to RIBA Educational Review, the outcome of which is yet to be defined.

<sup>10</sup> Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/qualifications/future\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/future_en.htm)

<sup>11</sup> Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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### Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Architecture.

### Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BA (Hons) Architecture are likely to have approximately 20 contact hours for level 4, 16 contact hours for level 5 and 12 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, studio tuition and workshop/lab based learning with the majority of teaching taking place in the studio. Students wishing to undertake work-based learning will be supported by the course team and the university placement. Students will normally be expected to undertake 18-22 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

### Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be based on coursework.

### Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

### Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Architecture will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Full-time International	£13,330 per year
Part-time International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay additional costs for materials and equipment amounting to approximately £500 per year. Students are likely to incur other costs for optional trips depending on destination and duration.

### Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).