

**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>This course is prescribed by the Architects' Registration Board (ARB) as Part 1</b> <b>RIBA Candidate Status</b>
Credit Structure <sup>2</sup>	<b>360 Credits</b> <b>Level 4: 120 Credits</b> <b>Level 5: 120 Credits</b> <b>Level 6: 120 Credits</b>
Mode of Attendance	<b>Full-time</b>
Standard Length of Course <sup>3</sup>	<b>3 years full-time</b>
Intended Award	<b>BA (Hons) Architecture</b>
Named Exit Awards	<b>None</b>
Entry Requirements <sup>4</sup>	<b>Applicants are accepted based on their performance in an interview and portfolio review.</b> <b>Standard 112 (BBC) 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 2023-24 academic year<sup>5</sup>.

**Course Summary**

The BA (Hons) Architecture (ARB Part 1) at the University of Suffolk is a rigorous and exciting program with a focus on situated practice of Architecture as a tool for creating new modes of life and living for people, places and the environment. The course is distinct in three aspects. The first is its pedagogical model of knowledge synthesis in studio as synergy of theory, design

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

<sup>3</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>4</sup> Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

<sup>5</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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and technology. The second unique aspect is that it has been envisioned and created by experienced educators of Architecture at the University of Suffolk in partnership with the local branch of the RIBA Suffolk so the studio becomes a creative, agile and critical design platform with continuous input by professionals in practice. The third unique aspect is the approach to the subject of Architecture as culture with a focus on ecological intelligence and environmental future anthropologies. Academics and practitioners join their wealth of knowledge and diverse international experiences to establish a programme of study that looks at how people live and less on what people use in the built environment to positively shape the future.

### **Course Aims**

Fundamentally, and in response to the QAA for Architecture (2010) Graduate Attributes for Part 1 as prescribed by the Architects' registration Board (ARB)<sup>6</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 building designs that address the new/current climate and societal challenges and lead to new modes of life for people and communities.
- Offer an interdisciplinary and discursive environment where students become competent in critically and thoroughly evaluating data to form judgements related to theory and practice of architecture 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 related to architecture and building design.

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 and methods as to convey concepts, proposals, and building design solutions effectively.
- Ensure that students have awareness and understanding of processes, principles, materials and systems as related to building design and 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, climate and environmental change 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

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<sup>6</sup> Prescription of Qualifications: ARB Criteria at Parts 1, 2 and 3, p.7.

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statements, known as level or course 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>7</sup> and ARB Generic Criteria for Part 1.

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

1. Understanding of the formal processes for the delivery of building design 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. Skill to produce conceptually complex ideas in an original and culturally aware manner, employing experimental methods of critical architecture.
4. Knowledge to develop technically articulate architectural solutions that integrate construction principles and building design strategies devising innovative systems.
5. Ability to formulate credible approaches to architectures and building design using appropriate performance standards, cost control mechanisms, addressing environmental needs and health and safety requirements.
6. Knowledge and skill to generate proposals and solutions that challenge and transcend the boundaries of the discipline academically and professionally.
7. Ability to engage in critical and structured discourse in theory and practice of architecture employing appropriate research methodologies reflecting on arts, science, and technology.
8. Skills to present critical arguments and designs using a wide range of media and sophisticated methods of communication including appropriate terminology.
9. Ability to produce an individual professional profile based on environmental, ethical, socioeconomic and cultural considerations, engaging in collaborative, interdisciplinary and discursive practice.

### **Course Design**

The design of this course's curriculum has been guided by the following benchmarks and professional standards:

- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Architecture (February 2020)<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> See <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-architecture.pdf>

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- 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 (2021)<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. All modules are mandatory, and all assessment components are core with no in-module compensation.

	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

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/resources-landing-page/validation-procedures-and-criteria>

<sup>10</sup> Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_en)

<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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11	Design Synthesis 3 [architectural design studio: social and environmental agendas]	60	Mandatory
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### Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Architecture and will be exempt from ARB Part 1 examinations. The award, with further study may be used to lead to qualifying as Architect in Practice in the UK as defined by the 1997 Architects' Act.

### Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BA (Hons) Architecture are likely to have approximately 20 tutor structured learning hours for level 4, 16 tutor structured learning hours for level 5 and 12 tutor structured learning hours for level 6. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars, studio tuition and workshop/lab-based learning with teaching taking place in allocated studios and specialised facilities as well as online (blended learning). Students wishing to undertake work-based learning will be supported by the course team and the university placement schemes. Students will normally be expected to undertake 18-22 hours of independent study in an average week. This may vary during the academic year and over the duration of the three years of study.

### Course Assessment

Our robust assessment strategy allows knowledge acquisition, fulfilment of academic and professional criteria and progression. Assessment is based on coursework that follows three strands: theory (25%, 90 credits) design (180 credits, 50%) and technology (25%, 90 credits). Suitable and current assessments methods are applied integrated in each module's learning, to ensure meeting the intended learning outcomes and criteria. They include text-based assignments, portfolio-based assignments and practical/curated output.

### Course Team

The Architecture course team consists of academics and architects from practice that cover specialisms in Architecture and spatial practice, the arts, critical urbanism, and sustainable building design. All staff profiles are available at <https://www.uos.ac.uk/courses/ug/ba-hons-architecture>.

### Course Costs

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

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£13,992 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

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

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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](#).