

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	PG Dip Architectural Practice
2	BCU Course Code	PT0809
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	Architects Registration Board (ARB) Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

6	Course Description
	<p>Successful completion of this postgraduate architecture course gives you recognition for RIBA Part 3, registration with the Architects Registration Board (ARB), direct access to title as an architect and therefore gain membership of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).</p> <p>There are two separate entry and completion points per year, providing a flexible approach to obtaining the final professional qualification. Intensive two-day lecture and workshop sessions are supported by weekend revision and study groups, which allow the course to be delivered harmoniously alongside your existing work commitments.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>Aimed at students engaged in architectural practice, this postgraduate course gives you the skills and knowledge to gain your qualification. It can also form the basis of your ongoing professional architectural development.</p> <p>You will gain a critical understanding of legal requirements, practice management and construction procurement in the architecture industry, and the fundamentals of good architectural practice.</p> <p>You will receive the support of outstanding professional staff whose extensive connections with architectural practices offer you exceptional opportunities. Lectures are delivered in four two-day intensive courses by a number of leading practitioners and experts in their field. They cover the legal framework, clients and building procurement, as well as practice and management. Based on your own experience in architectural practice, you will be required to prepare a case study in two parts, one around a pre-contract issue and one around an issue arising during the construction phase of a contract. You will also use records of experience to develop a critical career appraisal.</p> <p>You will be based in our multi-million pound City Centre Campus Parkside Building with access to advanced digital studios for rapid prototyping and digital production, as well as drawing, CAD and digital visual communication skills workshops.</p>

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Postgraduate Diploma Architectural Practice	7	120
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Not applicable		

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For modules with more than one item of assessment, all items of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module. 2. Compensation of marginally failed modules is not permitted. 3. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted.

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study
	Part-time	City Centre	2 years
			Code(s)
			PT0809

10	Entry Requirements
	<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.</p>

11 Course Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	Demonstrate a clear understanding of the architect's obligation to society and the profession, and a sufficient awareness of the limits of their competence and professional experience to ensure they are unlikely to bring the profession into disrepute.
2	Evaluate the range of services offered by architects and delivering those services in a manner prioritising the interests of the client and other stakeholders.
3	Discuss the relationship between the practice of architecture and the UK construction industry.
4	Appreciate the appropriate law, legislation, guidance and controls relevant to architectural design and construction.
Cognitive and Intellectual Skills	
5	Analyse the legal context within which an architect must operate, and the processes undertaken to ensure compliance with legal requirements or standards.
6	Evaluate of the business priorities, required management processes and risks of running an architectural practice.
7	Interpret the briefing process, forms and terms of appointment, the means of professional remuneration, relevant legislation, and the execution of appropriate coursed and coordinated project tasks.
8	Interpret the legal business entities, office systems, administration procedures and the relevant legislation.
Practical and Professional Skills	
9	Demonstrate overall competence and the ability to behave with integrity, in the ethical and professional manner appropriate to the role of architect.
10	Plan project-related tasks, coordinate and engage in design team interaction, execute effective contract communication and resolve construction-related challenges and disputes.
11	Interpret UK construction and contract law, construction procurement processes and the roles of built environment professionals.
12	Evaluate the contractual relationships, the obligations upon an architect acting as contract administrator, job-related administrative systems and the management of projects.
Key Transferable Skills	
13	Apply effective communication and presentation, organisation, self-management and autonomous working.
14	Communicate and positively interact with statutory and private bodies or individuals, and competently deliver projects within diverse legislative frameworks.
15	Employ the skills necessary to provide a competent service, both singly and as part of a team, including understanding of client needs, appropriate communication, programming, coordination and competent delivery.
16	Engage in business administration and ability to resource, plan, implement and record project tasks to achieve stated goals, either individually or within a team.

12	Course Requirements																
12a	Level 7: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i>																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Module Code</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Module Name</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ARC7446</td> <td>Professional Practice and Management</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC7447</td> <td>Building Procurement and Contract Administration</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC7449</td> <td>Professional Experience and Development</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC7448</td> <td>Case Study</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	ARC7446	Professional Practice and Management	20	ARC7447	Building Procurement and Contract Administration	20	ARC7449	Professional Experience and Development	40	ARC7448	Case Study	40	
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ARC7446	Professional Practice and Management	20															
ARC7447	Building Procurement and Contract Administration	20															
ARC7449	Professional Experience and Development	40															
ARC7448	Case Study	40															

12b Structure Diagram

Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Practice - (120 credits)

ACADEMIC MODULES (internal)		PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE MODULES (External Professional Examiners)	
ARC7446 (20 credits)	ARC7447 (20 credits)	ARC7449 (40 credits)	ARC7448 (40 credits)
Professional Practice & Management	Building Procurement & Contract Administration	Professional Experience & Development	Case Study
Scenario-based open paper - 6000 (100%)	3 hour open-book exam (100%)	PEDR CV Critical Career Evaluation - 3000 (75%)	Case Study 8000 (75%)
Optional synoptic questioning		Viva (25%)	Viva (25%)
2 blocks of 2 sessions Saturday revision	2 blocks of 2 sessions Saturday revision	Workshop/ tutorial support Mock viva	Workshop/ tutorial support Mock viva

	ACADEMIC MODULES (internal)		PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE MODULES (External Professional Examiners)	
Spring Entry	ARC7447 (20 credits)	ARC7446 (20 credits)	ARC7449 (40 credits)	ARC7448 (40 credits)
	Building Procurement & Contract Administration	Professional Practice & Management	Professional Experience & Development	Case Study
	3 hour open-book exam (100%)	Scenario-based open paper - 6000 (100%)	PEDR CV Critical Career Evaluation - 3000 (75%)	Case Study 8000 (75%)
	Optional synoptic questioning		Viva (25%)	Viva (25%)
	2 blocks of 2 sessions Saturday revision	2 blocks of 2 sessions Saturday revision	Workshop/ tutorial support Mock viva	Workshop/ tutorial support Mock viva

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core ARC7446: Professional Practice and Management (20 credits)	Core ARC7447: Building Procurement and Contract Administration (20 credits)
Core ARC7448: Case Study (40 credits) ARC7449: Professional Experience and Development (40 Credits)	

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

25% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	100
Directed Learning	860
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	63%
Exam	25%
In-Person	12%