

Course Specification

| Course Summary Information | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Course Title | BA (Hons) Architecture |
| 2 | Course Code | US0944 Full Time |
| 3 | Awarding Institution | Birmingham City University |
| 4 | Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3) | N/A |
| 5 | Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable) | |

| 6 | Course Description |
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| | <p>Framing architecture as a radical act of care, our BA Architecture course aims to nurture disciplinary disruptors, future leaders, innovators and thinkers, equipped for the now and ready to redefine the architectural practice of tomorrow.</p> <p>Architecture is the quiet choreography of the spaces we inhabit — a practice that does far more than shape buildings. Architects acting under this aegis gather the many strands of human endeavour—art, history, physics, engineering—into a single, unfolding narrative. Everywhere we move, architecture is already there: not only as structure, but as an imaginative act, a way of giving form to how we live, remember, and aspire.</p> <p>Taught in the £62 million Parkside Building at our City Centre Campus, this course is validated by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Successful completion of this course grants exemption from the Royal Institute of British Architects Part 1 Prescribed Examination. In order to register as an Architect in the UK you will need to hold an ARB-accredited master’s-level qualification and an accredited Practice qualification (or an accredited combined qualification) that together show that you have met the necessary competency outcomes (the threshold competencies that we expect of all architects on the Register) and have a minimum of two years practice experience.</p> <p>With the diverse architecture of Birmingham as your initial inspiration, you'll focus on urban environment and study neighbourhoods, cities, and regional and global networks. Industry connections in your second and third years help you foster direct links and contacts within practice, helping you to find work experience. We work closely with RIBA West Midlands and Birmingham City Council. You'll have the chance to be part of Co.LAB, a collaborative architecture and design initiative working on live projects with other disciplines and with industry and community partners. This engagement with one-to-one scale interventions and real-world practice helps you in your learning journey to become a more rounded and responsive designer.</p> <p>The course offers you great opportunities. Students from all years are offered places to attend events and to engage directly with practitioners and industry specialists, as well as informing you of changes in current practice. You'll also benefit from the insight of guest speakers from internationally renowned practices, designers, artists and thinkers.</p> |

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| | <p>In your final year, you'll showcase your work at the Graduate Show, an event attended by practitioners where previous students have been recruited by leading practices including Grimshaws, Hopkins Architects, Hawkins Brown and Glenn Howells Architects.</p> <p>You will study in our state-of-the-art Parkside Building, which has been praised for its investment and facilities by RIBA. While based in Parkside, you will sharpen your CAD and digital visual communication skills, prototyping and digital production, while also having access to a range of specialist software.</p> |
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| 7 | Course Awards | | |
| 7a | Name of Final Award | Level | Credits Awarded |
| | Bachelor of Arts with Honours Architecture | 6 | 360 |
| 7b | Exit Awards and Credits Awarded | | |
| | Certificate Higher Education Architecture | 4 | 120 |
| | Diploma Higher Education Architecture | 5 | 240 |
| | Bachelor of Arts Architecture | 6 | 300 |

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| 8 | Variations from the University Regulations |
| <p><u>This course has approved variations to the University's Academic Regulations. These can be accessed via the student contract page: https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-contract</u></p> | |

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|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 9 | Delivery Patterns | | | |
| | Mode(s) of Study | Location(s) of Study | Duration of Study | Code(s) |
| | Full-time | City Centre | 3 Years | US0944 |
| | Professional Placement Year | City Centre | 4 Years | US1290 |

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| 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/, or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.</p> |

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| 11. Course Learning Outcomes |
| 1. Knowledge and Understanding |
| 1.1 Review precedent, architectural and design practice, texts, resources and concepts appropriate to architecture. |
| 1.2 Define architectural contexts, including social, cultural and historical practices. |
| 1.3 Explain the relationship between architectural theory and practice in a range of architectural contexts. |
| 1.4 Demonstrate an understanding of how the focus of study fits within both the wider context of the architectural profession and interdisciplinary practice (s) |
| 2. Cognitive & Intellectual Skills |
| 2.1 Apply and integrate contextual knowledge and methodologies into architectural practice |
| 2.2 Transfer insights between different bodies of knowledge to reach independent conclusions in your own research and practice |
| 2.3 Employ skills and techniques to recognise and use a wide variety of components of architectural language and structure in both 2D and 3D graphic and media, together with written contexts |
| 2.4 Demonstrate intellectual and creative curiosity in the development of a professional career pathway |
| 3 Practical & Professional Skills |
| 3.1 Demonstrate the technical and creative skills required by the architect to convey personal expression, exploration and imagination in their professional practice. |
| 3.2 Employ skills of reflection and self-reflection to adapt and respond creatively to professional development opportunities and challenges. |
| 3.3 Describe different professional and cultural contexts within the architectural profession and their conventions and expectations. |
| 3.4 Synthesise the statutory, legislative, regulatory and ethical frameworks applicable to the contemporary architectural profession |
| 4 Key Transferable Skills |
| 4.1 work with autonomy and self-motivation |
| 4.2 work collaboratively and cooperatively in a variety of contexts |
| 4.3 plan and manage time and workloads effectively |
| 4.4 Communicate and present the outcomes of work in a variety of digital and non-digital formats. |
| 5 Course Aims |
| 5.1 Supported by its design, structure and implementation, the degree course enables students to achieve Undergraduate Honours degree level education and competence in architecture, meeting RIBA |

Part 1 exemption through engaging with differing structured course modules that expose and develop themes, ideologies and skills in a focused and iterative pattern.

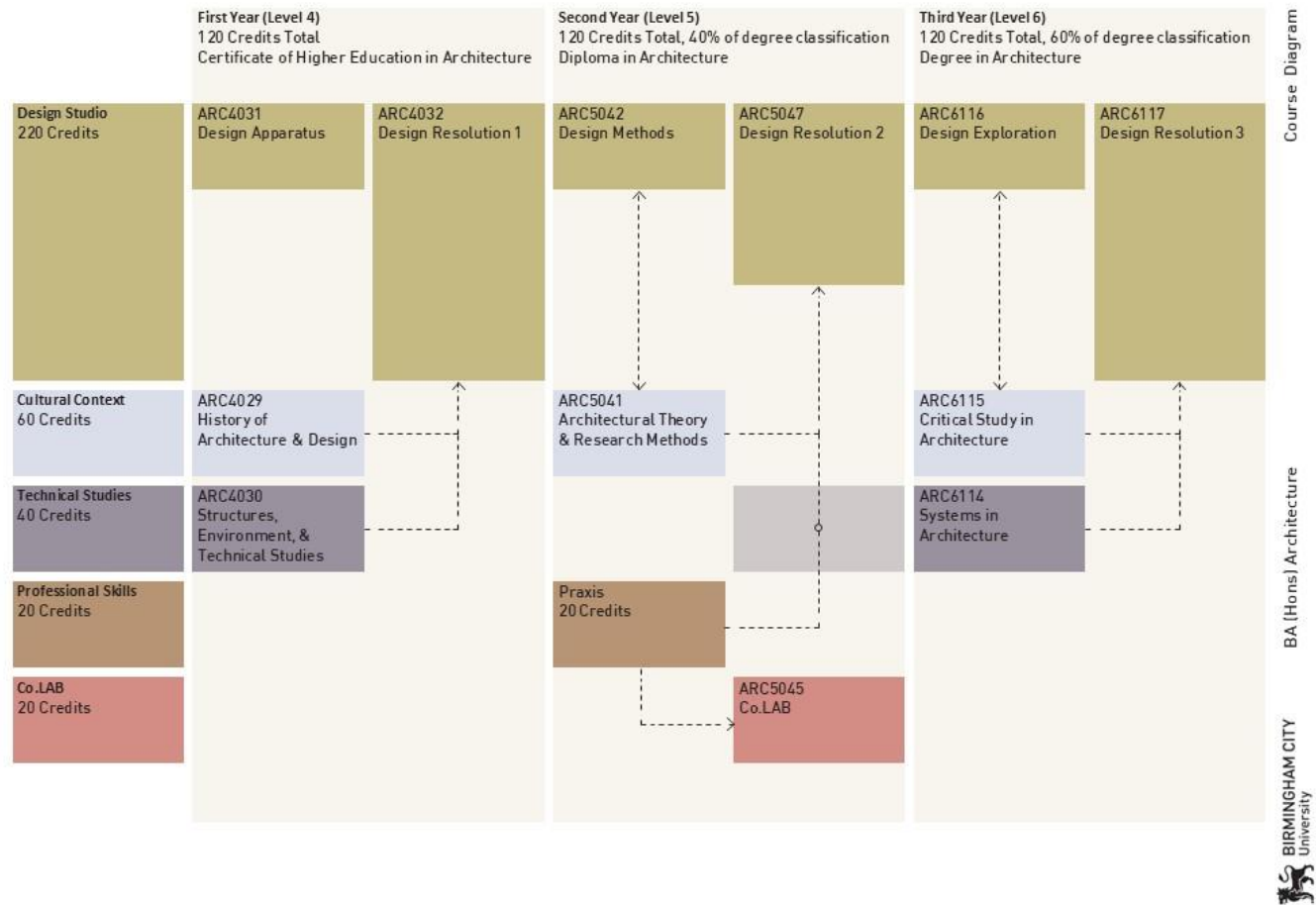
5.2 Students gain a systematic understanding in the discipline area, its associated skills, techniques and knowledge by engaging in a range of study modes and output types responsive to the course requirements and the professional, technical and cultural context of architecture.

5.3 Students develop and construct a comprehensive academic and design portfolio of their coursework that demonstrates creative and critical accomplishment in exploratory and integrated design practice and academic study.

5.4 Students prepare for appropriate employment and further learning through engagement with international, national and regional best practice and interdisciplinary working. This includes engagement with professional bodies, professional practice and aligned cognate disciplines.

| 12 | Course Requirements | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------|---------|------------------------------------|----|---------|--|----|---------|------------------|----|---------|---------------------|----|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------|---|----|---------|----------------|----|---------|--------|----|---------|--------|----|---------|---------------------|----|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------|--------------------------------|----|---------|--------------------|----|---------|-------------------------|----|---------|---------------------|----|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------|------------------------|-----|
| 12a | <p>Level 4 <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ARC4029</td> <td>History of Architecture and Design</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC4030</td> <td>Structures, Environment, & Technical Studies</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC4031</td> <td>Design Apparatus</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC4032</td> <td>Design Resolution 1</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </table> <p>Level 5: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ARC5041</td> <td>Architectural Theory and Research Methods</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC5042</td> <td>Design Methods</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC5043</td> <td>Praxis</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC5045</td> <td>Co.LAB</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC5047</td> <td>Design Resolution 2</td> <td>40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 6: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ARC6115</td> <td>Critical Study in Architecture</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC6116</td> <td>Design Exploration</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC6114</td> <td>Systems in Architecture</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARC6117</td> <td>Design Resolution 3</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 5: <i>In order to qualify for the awards with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the modules listed above as well as the following Level 5 module:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PPY5003</td> <td>Professional Placement</td> <td>120</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | ARC4029 | History of Architecture and Design | 20 | ARC4030 | Structures, Environment, & Technical Studies | 20 | ARC4031 | Design Apparatus | 20 | ARC4032 | Design Resolution 1 | 60 | Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value | ARC5041 | Architectural Theory and Research Methods | 20 | ARC5042 | Design Methods | 20 | ARC5043 | Praxis | 20 | ARC5045 | Co.LAB | 20 | ARC5047 | Design Resolution 2 | 40 | Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value | ARC6115 | Critical Study in Architecture | 20 | ARC6116 | Design Exploration | 20 | ARC6114 | Systems in Architecture | 20 | ARC6117 | Design Resolution 3 | 60 | Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value | PPY5003 | Professional Placement | 120 |
| ARC4029 | History of Architecture and Design | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC4030 | Structures, Environment, & Technical Studies | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC4031 | Design Apparatus | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC4032 | Design Resolution 1 | 60 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC5041 | Architectural Theory and Research Methods | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC5042 | Design Methods | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC5043 | Praxis | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC5045 | Co.LAB | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC5047 | Design Resolution 2 | 40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC6115 | Critical Study in Architecture | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC6116 | Design Exploration | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC6114 | Systems in Architecture | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARC6117 | Design Resolution 3 | 60 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PPY5003 | Professional Placement | 120 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

12b Structure diagram



Course Structure
Full Time (3 Years)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Level 4 (Year 1) | SEMESTER ONE | SEMESTER TWO |
| | ARC4031: Design Apparatus (20) ARC4029: History of Modern Architecture and Design (20) ARC4030: Structure, Environment and Technical Studies (20) | ARC4032: Design Resolution 1 (60) |
| Level 5 (Year 2) | SEMESTER ONE | SEMESTER TWO |
| | ARC5042: Design Methods (20) ARC5041: Architectural Theory and Research Methods (20) ARC5043: Praxis (20) | ARC5047: Design Resolution 2 (40) ARC5045: Co.Lab (20) |
| Level 6 (Year 3) | SEMESTER ONE | SEMESTER TWO |
| | ARC6116: Design Exploration (20) ARC6115: Critical Study in Architecture (20) ARC6114: Systems in Architecture (20) | ARC6117: Design Resolution 3 (60) |

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 4

Workload

30% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

| Activity | Number of Hours |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Scheduled Learning | 410 |
| Directed Learning | 290 |
| Private Study | 500 |
| Total Hours | 1200 |

Balance of Assessment

| Assessment Mode | Percentage |
|-----------------|------------|
| Coursework | 100% |
| Exam | 0% |
| In-Person | 0% |

Level 5

Workload

20% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

| Activity | Number of Hours |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Scheduled Learning | 240 |
| Directed Learning | 360 |
| Private Study | 600 |

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Total Hours | 1200 |
|--------------------|------|

Balance of Assessment

| Assessment Mode | Percentage |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Coursework | 60% |
| Exam | 0% |
| In-Person | 40% |

Level 6

Workload

25% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

| Activity | Number of Hours |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Scheduled Learning | 300 |
| Directed Learning | 140 |
| Private Study | 760 |
| Total Hours | 1200 |

Balance of Assessment

| Assessment Mode | Percentage |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Coursework | 100% |
| Exam | 0% |
| In-Person | 0% |