

DSA Dublin School of Architecture



Architecture @ DIT



The Dublin School of Architecture educates and trains students primarily for the practice of architecture. Through a liberal education the School encourages its' students to become independent, critical and self aware graduates with the skills to allow for their continuing professional development. Individual diversity in architectural approach is encouraged while fostering a sense of **people, place and culture**.

The School supports a culture of **architectural excellence** within the student cohort as part of the preparation for the rigours of creative design and practice. It provides a learning and teaching environment which fosters in students an interest in and enthusiasm for architecture. Students are also prepared for further study in the field of architecture and related disciplines, such as Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Conservation and/or a future career within the architectural profession.



Architecture involves.....

- creating architectural designs
- studying the **history and theories of architecture** and the related arts, technologies and human sciences
- studying **urban design** and planning while developing an understanding of the relationship between **people and buildings and between buildings and their environment**
- developing **innovative and imaginative designs** which meet building users' requirements
- designing buildings that create **comfortable and sustainable environments** and protect against the climate
- developing methods of **exploration and investigation** and the ability to prepare proposals
- understanding the **profession of architecture and the role of the architect in society**
- understanding the principles of **structural design, constructional and engineering problems** associated with building design
- understanding **the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures** involved in the built environment sector

The Programme

The **Bachelor of Architecture** degree is a Level 8 National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) **five year full time honours programme**.



The programme is **studio-centred**, with a variety of teaching methods including studio instruction, group work, lectures, workshops, tutorials, interactive criticism, critiques, field trips and

site visits.

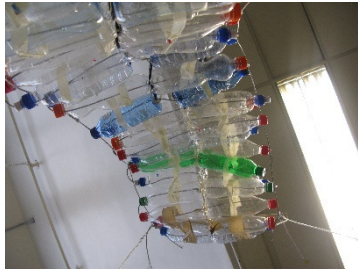
The design studio programme, making up approximately a total half of the teaching time in each stage, concentrates on the processes of design to allow the students to develop their own potential and powers of self criticism, checking their ideas against the constraints of the problem. The comments of the studio staff and the contributions of a student's peers are central to the studio educational process.



The student develops as an architect through a programme which has a strong emphasis on **creativity, social response and responsibility, and the relationship of buildings to their environment**.

Architectural Design Studio

The modularised Bachelor Degree in Architecture (BArch) programme comprises five stages or academic years. Each stage has two semesters, each equating to 30 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits. The total ECTS credits for the programme are 300.



Programme structure

The programme is structured into five academic strands

- **Architectural Design Studio**
- **Building Technology and Structures**
- **Environment Services and Materials**
- **History, Theory and Criticism**
- **Professional Studies and Communication**

Architectural Design Studio

This strand includes the programme's principal modules and is a vehicle for application and integration of the technical and theoretical knowledge, understanding and skills developed in the other modules.



This is done through architectural design projects which pose design, constructional, structural, theoretical, social and environmental problems to the students.

As students progress, the complexity and scale of the projects increases, from items of furniture and inhabitations at the scale of the human body at the beginning of Stage 1 to master-planning and a large mixed-use development in Stage 3.



In the later years students examine and inquire into the issue, methods and critical concerns of contemporary design, covering areas such as theories of architectural design, environmental design, assembly, materiality, building construction, production and economics as well as contemporary and critical architectural discourse. In the final year each individual student is required to propose an individual thesis design project.

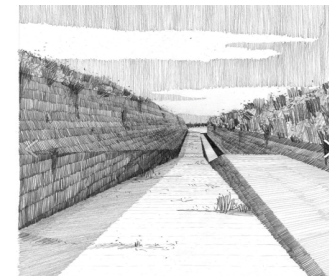
The Architectural Design Studio modules develop the student's ability to explore three dimensional design solutions through the use of multi-media including sketches, esquisses, overlays, investigative models, manual and digital drawings and models and other analytical and explorative techniques.



Each ADS module is designed to explore a particular conceptual theme, with study trips and interdisciplinary design projects designed to complement this exploration. This overall structure provides.

Building Technology and Structures

This strand explores the theories, principles and applications of building construction technology and structures to a depth appropriate for the ongoing studio projects. The modules provide the student with the necessary knowledge and understanding of the key relationship between idea and built form.



Environmental Services and Materials

This strand includes the theories, principles and application of environmental design, mechanical and electrical services and systems and building materials. The modules develop the student's understanding of the principles of environmental design and to develop the student's ability to analyse and enhance design effectiveness and performance through measurement and calculation of environmental design criteria.



History Theory and Criticism

This strand introduces the student to the history and theories of architectural design and also landscape and urban design from prehistory to the present day.

Professional Studies and Communication

This strand introduces the student to a range of subjects relating to the practice of architecture including professional practice, law, economics and cost control, graphics, computer applications and presentation techniques.



Admission Criteria

Leaving Certificate Applicants

A Leaving Certificate with passes in six subjects, at least two of which must be Grade C3 or higher on higher level papers, or equivalent qualifications is required. The six subjects must include Mathematics **and** English **or** Irish.

625 points allocated to Leaving Certificate

Suitability Test

Candidates will be required to undertake a suitability test and if the appropriate standard is achieved, they will be interviewed as part of the selection process. The suitability test is usually held at Easter time and the interviews in mid-May. The test includes assessment in creativity, spatial and verbal reasoning and has been designed to be architecture specific.

100 points is allocated to Suitability Test

Interview

Those candidates achieving the appropriate standard at suitability test will be invited to interview. Like the Leaving Certificate entry points the standard may vary from year to year. Candidates called to interview are graded independently by members of the architectural academic staff.

The interview aims to further assess the applicant's creative abilities together with their understanding of the nature of a career in architecture. Whilst it is not a mandatory requirement for the interview, the majority of candidates present for interview with a portfolio.

100 points allocated to Interview

Samples of interview questions

- When did you first developed an interest in architecture?
- Do you know what an architect does, in very general terms, and why do you feel you have an aptitude for architecture?
- Have you read or are you reading any books on architecture?
- Have you been inspired by the work of any particular architect?
- Do you have an interest in particular building/place?

A portfolio may contain

- Photographs of buildings, people and places
- Imaginative drawings and paintings of buildings, people and places
- Evidence of a sense of design, composition, proportion and scale
- A range of media including drawings, use of pencil or pen or other media.

Non Standard Applicants

Non Standard applicants are candidates under the age of 23 who are undertaking or have completed another programme of study, ideally but not necessarily related to architecture. Non Standard applicants should apply through the CAO, indicating on their application form that they are engaged in or have completed another programme of study.

Mature Applicants

Mature applicants are candidates over the age of 23 on 1 January of the proposed year of entry. Mature applicants should apply through the CAO, indicating their mature status on their application form. Mature applicants are not required to meet the normal minimum entry requirements.

Advanced Entry Transfer Procedures

Applicants who possess a related third level qualification may be admitted to the second year of the programme, subject to interview and availability of places. Applications for advanced entry to the programme are made directly to the Central Applications Office (www.cao.ie).

Non Standard And Mature Applicants

The application forms of all candidates identified as being Non Standard and Mature in the CAO process are assessed by a panel of Dublin School of Architecture academic staff. A short list is formed and a number of candidates are invited to attend an interview and present a portfolio of their work. Non Standard and Mature applicants who demonstrate exceptional ability in the interview will be offered a place on the programme in CAO Round 0,

Interviews of Mature and Non Standard applicants will take place in May of each year. Numbers of applicants admitted in this way depends on the number of candidates demonstrating exceptional ability through portfolio and at interview.

Mature and Non Standard applicants who are not invited to interview through the above process may still be admitted to the programme based on their Leaving Certificate performance but will be in competition with all other standard applicants

Choices: Masters in Architecture

Beginning in 2017 we will be launching the Masters in Architecture programme. Entrants to the programme in September 2017 will have the option of completing the five year ab initio B.Arch degree with full professional accreditation under the government 'free fees scheme', or, if they wish- subject to reaching the required academic standard – they can progress to the Masters in Architecture programme.

This choice will be made available to students at the end of four years study on the programme. Upon completion of four years successful study on the Architecture programme students can either complete the B.Arch programme leading to their career as an architect or continue to study for a year and a half on the Masters in Architecture Programme.

This development will broaden the choices for students allowing multiple career pathways to becoming an architect. This suite of options also preserves the pathway to becoming an architect without paying additional tuition fees for the Masters.



International student exchanges

Currently the Dublin School of Architecture provides opportunities for educational and academic exchanges with a number of international schools. Among the many opportunities through the Erasmus/ International programmes include exchanges with the following institutions

Germany

- **RWTH Aachen**
- **HafenCity Universität Hamburg**

Spain

- **Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, School of Architecture of the Vallès (ETSAV)**

France

- **ENSA Paris La Villette**
- **Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Montpellier (ENSAM), Montpellier**

Italy

- **Università degli Studi di Sassari, Sardegna**
- **Facoltà di Architettura di Alghero**

Denmark

- **School of Architecture Aarhus**

Switzerland

- **Bern University of Applied Sciences**
- **Mendrisio School of Architecture (AAM)**

Sweden

- **School of Architecture, Lund, University**

USA

- **University of Nebraska (Lincoln)**

Australia

- **University of Canberra Australia**

Professional accreditation

The Bachelors Degree in Architecture is accredited by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland. After two years accredited experience graduates are eligible for membership of the RIAI.

The Building Control Act 2007 introduced registration for architects. Under the Act, the RIAI must maintain a register of architects who meet the qualification standards.

Eligibility for admission as an architect to the Register for Architects and to membership of the RIAI follows completion of degree in architecture followed by two years of approved practical experience, and an examination in professional practice.

Websites

Dublin Institute of Technology
www.dit.ie

The Architectural Association of Ireland
www.aai.ie

Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland
www.riai.ie

Further information

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