

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Architecture
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	This course is prescribed by the Architects' Registration Board (ARB) as Part 1 RIBA Candidate Status
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Architecture
Named Exit Awards	L4 – CertHE Architectural Studies L5 – DipHE Architectural Studies L6 – BA Architectural Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	Applicants are accepted based on their performance in an interview and portfolio review. Standard 112 (BBC) tariff points apply. GCSE Maths C required.
Delivering Institution	Ipswich
UCAS Code	K100

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 2025-26 academic year⁵.

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

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ 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](#).

⁴ 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](#).

⁵ 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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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 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 ARB Graduate Attributes for Part 1 as prescribed by the Architects' Registration Board (2010)⁶ 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.

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

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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 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)⁷ and ARB Generic Criteria for Part 1.

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

CLO6.1 - Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the key aspects relating to architecture, through the development of conceptual design proposals and acquisition of technical knowledge in the study of materials, construction methods and environmental strategies.

CLO6.2 - Apply a wide range of research methods and techniques through analysis of histories and theories, mapping observations and study of literature relating to architectural enquiry.

CLO6.3 - Assess a range of information to devise and sustain arguments, make judgements, and/ or to solve problems using ideas and techniques relevant to architectural enquiry.

CLO6.4 - Communicate relatively complex architectural proposals clearly and effectively using a range of visual and written media that demonstrates a degree of experimentation and proficiency, with a deep awareness of design processes relating to architectural practice.

CLO6.5 - Critically evaluate ethical issues within design proposals which demonstrates a deep awareness of users' needs and aspirations, and the wider impact that the conduct of architects and construction professionals can have on the natural and built environment.

CLO6.6 - Manage individual learning needs, taking the initiative through self-directed study to appraise future professional and academic needs and development of scholarly 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)⁸
- QAA The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2014) at Bachelor's degree with Honours (level 6).
- Prescription of Qualifications: ARB Criteria at Part 1 (2010) and as amended (2019).

⁷ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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

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- RIBA Procedures for Validation and Validation Criteria for UK and International Courses and Examinations in Architecture (2021)⁹.

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 qualifications¹⁰.

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 ¹¹
Level 4			
1	Context	20	Mandatory
2	Creative Media	20	Mandatory
3	Systems	20	Mandatory
4	Design Synthesis 1	60	Mandatory
Level 5			
5	Critical Perspectives	20	Mandatory
6	Digital Twin	20	Mandatory
7	Climate, Culture, Context	20	Mandatory
8	Design Synthesis 2	60	Mandatory
Level 6			
9	Research	20	Mandatory
10	Professional Practice	20	Mandatory
11	Design Synthesis 3	60	Mandatory
12	Building Pathology	20	Mandatory

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.

Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Architectural Studies on

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

¹⁰ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_en

¹¹ 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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successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Architectural Studies on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BA (Hons) Architecture are likely to have approximately 17 tutor structured learning hours per week for level 4, 12 tutor structured learning hours per week for level 5 and 10 tutor structured learning hours per week 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 22- hours of self-directed study in an average week in Year 1, up to 30 hrs in Year 3. This may vary during the academic year and over the duration of the three years of study, this can also vary depending on personal attitude to learning.

Course Assessment

Our robust assessment strategy allows knowledge acquisition, fulfilment of academic and professional criteria and progression. Assessment is based on coursework that follows four strands: design (180 credits), technology (60 credits), theory (60 credits) and professional skills (60 credits). Suitable and current assessments methods are applied and 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	£15,690 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.

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.

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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](#).