

Notes for the Guidance of Students applying for Architecture Courses in the UK

These notes were originally prepared for International Students but contain useful general information about the process of architectural education and professional qualification as an Architect in the UK.

These notes are provided for the guidance of students who are considering an application to the University of Huddersfield for a course in Architecture and who may not be familiar with the structure of architectural education and the process of professional qualification and Registration¹ as an Architect in the UK.

The professional practice of architecture is regulated in most countries throughout the world so that only those persons who are properly qualified and professionally experienced may legally use the title 'Architect' and/or offer their services as an architect.

The professional practice of architecture within the UK and European Union (EU/EEC) is regulated through European Union Council Directive 85/384/EEC – commonly known as the 'Architects' Directive'. An English language version of this Directive can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1985/en_1985L0384_do_001.pdf.

The text is also available in other EU languages on the Europa website.

The Architects' Directive sets out (in Articles 3 and 4) criteria for academic awards (degrees, diplomas, etc.) leading to professional qualification and Registration as an Architect in an EU member State and makes provision for the mutual recognition of the status of 'Registered Architect' between member States.

However, although this EU legislation sets out general guidelines for the education and professional training of architects (including an outline syllabus for courses of architecture), the practical process of regulating courses of architecture and professional training is left to individual member States.

In the United Kingdom, the validation of courses, programmes and examinations in architecture and the supervision of professional training is carried out by two organisations:

1. The Architects' Registration Board of the United Kingdom (ARB)
8 Weymouth Street
London W1W 5BU
(telephone +44 (0)207 580 5861 or email to: info@arb.org.uk)
2. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD
(telephone +44 (0)207 580 5533 or email to: info@inst.riba.org)

The ARB has ultimate legal responsibility for ensuring that all UK qualifications for the practice of architecture comply with the requirements of the EU Architects' Directive. The validation of courses and the setting of Examinations in Architecture (both within the UK and elsewhere) has traditionally been the role of the RIBA and both organisations have now agreed a common outline syllabus, and common criteria and procedures for the validation of courses in the UK.²

¹ The term 'Registration' refers to the process of legal registration as an Architect with a statutory authority established for the purpose of regulating the architectural profession. The statutory authority responsible for the registration of architects in the UK is the Architects' Registration Board.

² See 'Tomorrow's Architect' published by the RIBA, March, 2003

The ARB and RIBA have jointly established a syllabus and criteria for three examinations in architecture, known as the Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3 Examination in Architecture, and have validated and approved courses of architecture at academic institutions that meet these criteria. Students who successfully complete a validated course in architecture at an approved institution are automatically awarded a 'pass' in the equivalent RIBA Examination. Students who have not completed a validated course of architecture can apply to the ARB and RIBA for 'Assessment' of their academic qualifications and appraisal of their practical design ability by portfolio examination. (See below.)

The structure of architectural education at the University of Huddersfield follows the syllabus set out by the ARB and RIBA is divided into three Parts:

- Part 1 A three year undergraduate degree programme, leading to the award of a Bachelor's degree with Honours (BA(Hons) Architecture or BA(Hons) Architecture (International)), that provides exemption from the RIBA Part 1 Examination in Architecture.
- Part 2 A further two years of 'advanced undergraduate' study³, leading to the award of a Diploma in Architecture, that provides exemption from the RIBA Part 2 Examination in Architecture. (Following the award of Diploma in Architecture, students may, by submitting a further Dissertation, be awarded the master's degree of MA Architecture or MA Architecture (International)⁴.)
- Part 3 After a period of not less than 24 months⁵ in professional training, a short course and examination in Professional Practice and Management in Architecture that carries the award of Master of Architecture and provides exemption from the RIBA Part 3 Examination in Architecture.

(A period of supervised⁶ professional training is a requirement for professional qualification and Registration as an architect throughout the EU. However, those who undertake architecture courses in the UK, but who do not wish to become Registered Architects in the UK, may not be required to undertake the same periods of training (but are advised to consult the organisation that supervises the Register of Architects in the country in which they intend to practice).)

³ For practical reasons concerned with the funding of architecture courses in the UK, the first two years of 'postgraduate' study in architecture are technically classified as 'advanced undergraduate' study that normally leads to the award of a Diploma in Architecture (sometimes somewhat confusingly referred to as a 'Postgraduate Diploma in Architecture'). The award of a Master's degree is dependent upon the Institution: most institutions require the completion of additional study following the successful completion of Part 2, whilst other institutions require the completion of the Part 3 course and Examination. The University of Huddersfield offers three Master's degrees in Architecture: an MSc in Sustainable Architecture⁷, a Master of Arts in Architecture⁴, awarded after the successful submission of a Dissertation following completion of the Diploma in Architecture, and a Master of Architecture degree awarded following successful completion of the Part 3 Examination in Architecture.

⁴ Subject to validation by the University of Huddersfield.

⁵ The ARB and RIBA stipulate that a total period of not less than 24 months must be spent in 'professional training' before the Part 3 Examination - up to 12 months of which can be undertaken before the completion of Part 2 and 12 months of which **must** be undertaken between the completion of Part 2 and before the taking of the Part 3 Examination. The majority of students in the UK, therefore, take a so-called 'Year Out' in supervised employment/practical training after the completion of their 'Part 1' course and before the commencement of 'Part 2'. Normally (for those students who wish to become Registered as Architects in the UK) at least twelve months of professional experience must be undertaken in the United Kingdom under the supervision of a UK Registered Architect.

⁶ In order to satisfy the requirements for professional Registration in the UK, periods of Professional Training/Employment must be supervised by an educational institution and recorded with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

⁷ The MSc in Sustainable Architecture is not an RIBA Part 2 course but can be accomplished by students from a variety of disciplines in a period of one year. For further information please contact Richard Nicholls at r.nicholls@hud.ac.uk.

Many Colleges, Universities and other Institutions in the UK offer courses in 'architecture' but only courses that are validated by the RIBA and ARB can provide automatic exemption from the RIBA's Examination in Architecture and direct entry into the architectural profession and Registration as an Architect in the UK.

All of the University of Huddersfield's professional courses in architecture are unconditionally validated by the ARB and RIBA, i.e:

- Part 1: BA(Hons) Architecture
BA(Hons) Architecture (International)
- Part 2: Diploma in Architecture
Diploma in Architecture (International)
- Part 3: Master of Architecture
Certificate of Professional Practice and Management in Architecture

More information about the structure of architecture courses at the University of Huddersfield is provided in the University Prospectus that can be accessed via our website at www.hud.ac.uk.

Anyone wishing to become professionally Registered as an Architect in the UK must successfully complete or obtain exemption from each Part of the RIBA Examination in Architecture.

However, International students, who **do not** wish to become professionally Registered as architects in the UK, are not required to have a UK 'Part 1' qualification before they undertake the Diploma in Architecture course, and can be awarded a Diploma in Architecture and/or an MA Architecture degree BUT: unless they have or obtain a UK Part 1 qualification (or exemption therefrom), they cannot be awarded exemption from the RIBA Part 2 Examination and cannot, therefore, proceed to further professional qualification as an Architect in the UK.

Applicants for postgraduate courses in Architecture who **do** wish to become Registered as an Architect in the UK but who have previously completed an undergraduate course in architecture outside the UK (including courses completed elsewhere in the EU)⁸ will have to undertake further assessment to establish UK equivalence of their qualifications and experience. This also applies to applicants who have studied on international courses validated by the RIBA. This is because the ARB does not currently recognise any qualifications obtained outside the UK.

The assessment of architectural qualifications is carried out by a joint ARB/RIBA Assessment Panel that is administered by the Architects Registration Board (ARB) whose recommendations are jointly accepted by both bodies. For more information about the process of applying for Assessment, please contact:

The ARB RIBA Assessment Panel Secretariat
8 Weymouth Street
London W1W 8BU
Telephone: +44(0) 20 7 580 5861
Email: <mailto:info@arb.org.uk>
Website: <http://www.arb.org.uk/>

⁸ Although the Architects' Directive lists (in Article 11) qualifications (degrees, diplomas, certificates, etc.) issued in each member State that are deemed to satisfy the requirements of Articles 3 and 4, the Directive does not make provision for the automatic 'recognition' of these qualifications in other member States. This means that students of architecture who transfer between States before final qualification and/or Registration must normally apply to the statutory authority established to regulate the architectural profession in the State to which they move, for 'recognition' of their prior qualifications (if they wish to become Registered - professionally recognized - as an architect in that member State). However, as previously stated, once a person is fully qualified and Registered as an Architect in a member State they are entitled to be recognized as an Architect - and to practice architecture - in any other EU State, providing that they register with the relevant statutory authority in the State concerned.

Summary

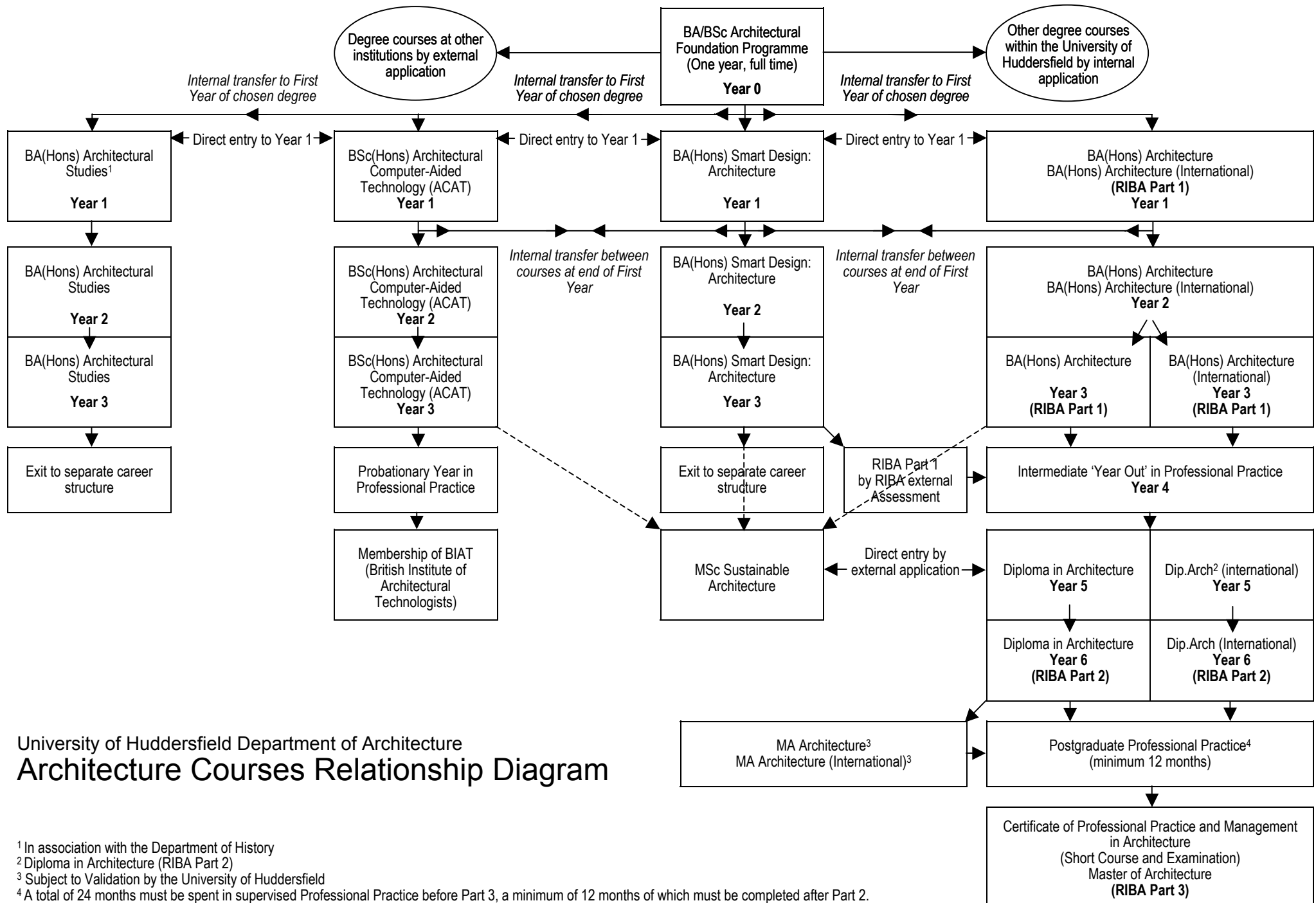
The University of Huddersfield Department of Architecture welcomes applications from all UK, European and International students.

- Students who wish to apply for an undergraduate programme (e.g. BA(Hons) Architecture or BSc(Hons) Architectural Technology) should make their application through the UK Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). UCAS application forms can be ordered direct from UCAS at www.ucas.com or, for applicants from outside the UK, can be obtained from the British Council (www.britishcouncil.org). For further information about the BA Architecture course, please contact Carl Meddings at c.meddings@hud.ac.uk. For further information about the BSc Architectural Technology course, please contact Charles Cox at c.i.hippisley-cox@hud.ac.uk.
- Applicants who are not adequately qualified or experienced to join the normal First Year of a three year degree programme may be invited to join our one year BA/BSc Architectural Foundation Programme, which is also suitable for International students. Applications for the Architectural Foundation Programme can also be made directly through UCAS (Course code KK12, BA/BSc AFP). For further information contact Jon Bush at j.bush@hud.ac.uk.
- Students with any appropriate undergraduate qualification (e.g. a Bachelor's degree in Architecture, or equivalent) can apply for a postgraduate course in architecture (an MSc in Sustainable Architecture, Diploma and/or MA in Architecture) at the University of Huddersfield. A Word version of our Application Form is available that can be sent back to us by email.
For further information about the MSc in Sustainable Architecture contact Richard Nicholls at r.nicholls@hud.ac.uk
For further information about the Diploma and MA in Architecture contact Jon Bush at j.bush@hud.ac.uk
- Admission to the Diploma and MA courses in Architecture are subject to:
 1. Assessment of the applicant's academic ability and equivalence of their prior qualifications.
Except in the case of applicants who have completed an RIBA validated course of Architecture, Applicant's must provide:
 - A detailed syllabus (in English) of their previous course(s) of study
 - A full Transcript of their academic results (in English)
 - Any additional information subsequently requested by an Admissions Tutor (e.g. further details of their previous programme of study).
 2. Assessment of the applicant's design ability by examination of a portfolio of work.
A portfolio may comprise photographs or photocopies of original work or may be submitted in digital format on CD ROM or via the Internet.
 3. Assessment of the applicant's proficiency in English.
Applicants are expected to have achieved a minimum IELTS score of 5.0 (TOEFL 500, TOEFL CBT 173) or equivalent.
- Applicants for a postgraduate course in architecture who wish to become professionally qualified and/or Registered as an Architect in the UK, must undertake additional, 'external' assessment of their prior qualifications and design ability in order to obtain exemption from the RIBA's Part 1 Examination in Architecture. (See above Notes)
- Applicants who wish to undertake a postgraduate course in architecture and who wish to become professionally qualified and/or Registered as an Architect in the UK but who do not wish to undergo additional 'external assessment', can apply to the University of Huddersfield to take the final year of the BA(Hons) Architecture degree programme which, if successfully completed, will provide automatic exemption from the RIBA's Part 1 Examination in Architecture. Applications for undergraduate programmes have to be made through UCAS. UCAS application forms can be obtained from the British Council (www.britishcouncil.org) or can be ordered from UCAS at www.ucas.com.
- Applicants for a postgraduate course in architecture who lack proficiency in English (or who wish to improve their understanding and proficiency in English prior to undertaking a Master's degree, may apply to the University of Huddersfield to undertake our International Pre-Master's Programme (http://www.hud.ac.uk/intr_ntl/pmp.htm).

I hope that these Notes will provide you with the information you need to make an Application to the University of Huddersfield. If you require further information or help in making your application please contact:

Jon Bush
Admissions Tutor
University of Huddersfield
Department of Architecture
Huddersfield
HD1 3DH
UK

Telephone: +44 (0)1484 472281
Fax: +44 (0)1484 472240
Email: j.bush@hud.ac.uk



University of Huddersfield Department of Architecture Architecture Courses Relationship Diagram

¹ In association with the Department of History

² Diploma in Architecture (RIBA Part 2)

³ Subject to Validation by the University of Huddersfield

⁴ A total of 24 months must be spent in supervised Professional Practice before Part 3, a minimum of 12 months of which must be completed after Part 2.