UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

# Course Specification

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| **Published Date:** | 23-Jul-2026 |
| **Produced By:** | Multi Type Usr Record For All Personnel |
| **Status:** | Validated |

# Core Information

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| **Awarding Body / Institution:** | University of Wolverhampton | | |
| **School / Institute:** | School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering | | |
| **Course Code(s):** | AT022P01UV<br>AT022P31UV | Full-time<br>Part-time | 2 Years<br>3 Years |
| **UCAS Code:** | | | |
| **Course Title:** | MArch Architecture | | |
| **Hierarchy of Awards:** | Master in Architecture MArch Architecture<br>Master of Science Architectural Design<br>Postgraduate Diploma Architectural Studies<br>Postgraduate Certificate Architectural Studies<br>University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit | | |
| **Language of Study:** | English | | |
| **Date of first cohort:** | 05/May/2020 | | |
| **Specification valid from:** | 2019/0 | | |

# Academic Staff

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| **Course Leader:** | Olive White |
| **Head of Department:** | Dr David Heesom |

# Course Information

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| **Location of Delivery:** | University of Wolverhampton |
| **Category of Partnership:** | Standard Provision (Not delivered in partnership) |
| **Teaching Institution:** | University of Wolverhampton |
| **Open / Closed Course:** | This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates. |

## Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

UK applicants:

Second-class honours undergraduate degree in architecture, or similar named degree.

Global applicants:

Undergraduate degree in architecture, or similar related, design-based degree based within the built environment.
*Note: applicants with non-ARB (Part 1) prescribed undergraduate architecture degrees who wish to register in the UK as an architect eventually would have to pass the ARB Prescribed Examination to validate their undergraduate studies.*

Portfolio:
All applicants will be asked to provide their C.V. as well as an exemplary (digital) portfolio of academic and professional architectural design works. This should include their undergraduate dissertation where present.

Relevant experience: All applicants are normally expected to have completed at least 9 months of placement in practice or have equivalent experience and this is recommended and highly desirable. However, proof of practical experience is not required for entry into this MArch (ARB Part 2).
*Note: a minimum of 24 months of logged professional experience are required to undertake an ARB Part 3 examination and to register as an architect in the UK, this should include at least 12 months working in the EEA, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, under the direct supervision of an architect. 12 of the 24 months' experience should have been undertaken in the two years immediately before taking the Part 3 examination.*

Language requirements for International Applicants:

Minimum English competency is IELTS 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each area or equivalent qualifications.

## Distinctive Features of the Course:

In your years with us, you will be immersed in an exciting and engaging practical environment, where we challenge you to expand your skills and understanding. A critical attitude is nurtured, so you can contest from within the built environment and become the change, innovating current practice.

Wolverhampton, at the heart of the origin of the industrial revolution, now has a global responsibility to lead by example to address the legacy of that history. Local innovators connected with the University, and especially our award-winning and exemplary retrofit Springfield Campus are already partnering with us and conducting world-leading research as we actively address the climate crisis.  With the regeneration of the built-environment at its heart, this course will provide you with a design-based education allowing you to expand your architectural design abilities through studio-based learning and personal research. In addition to developing your creative capabilities, this course will draw on our innovative technological environment to allow you to integrate design with the latest emerging technology for the development of user-centred solution to shape the local, national, and international

urban environment. You will graduate with the means, the skills, and academic tools enabling you to become a global player at the cutting edge of architectural design as we reach into our green future.

## Educational Aims of the Course:

The educational aim of this course is to challenge you to explore further your creative design capabilities and personal emphasis, whilst recovering traditional, and employing innovative technologies and materials for the regeneration of the current and future built environment. Throughout your study, you will explore how architecture can shape national and international communities and culture, including developing a deep understanding of the focused philosophy and responsibility you will need to design empowering, creative, regenerative architectural solutions.

## Intakes:

September

## Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

## Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

| Year | Status | Mode | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2025/6 | H | Full Time | £9535.00 |
| 2025/6 | Overseas | Full Time | £15995.00 |
| 2025/6 | H | 31 | £4768.00 |
| 2026/7 | H | Full Time | £9790.00 |
| 2026/7 | Overseas | Full Time | £17600.00 |
| 2026/7 | H | 31 | £4895.00 |

## PSRB:

AT022P01UV (Full-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Architects Registration Board (ARB)

Accrediting Body:
Architects Registration Board (ARB)

Accreditation Statement:
Prescribed by the Architects Registration Board (ARB) at Part 2 level for the purpose of registration in the UK.

Additional Notes:
"Qualifications which are prescribed by the Architects Registration Board (ARB) at Parts 1, 2 and 3 are required for registration with that body and only those registered with ARB may lawfully practise using the title 'architect'."

| Approved | Start | Expected End | Renewal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 29/Apr/2026 | 25/May/2022 | 31/Dec/2028 | 31/Dec/2028 |

AT022P31UV (Part-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Architects Registration Board (ARB)

Accrediting Body:
Architects Registration Board (ARB)

Accreditation Statement:
Prescribed by the Architects Registration Board (ARB) at Part 2 level for the purpose of registration in the UK.

Additional Notes:
"Qualifications which are prescribed by the Architects Registration Board (ARB) at Parts 1, 2 and 3 are required for registration with that body and only those registered with ARB may lawfully practise using the title 'architect'."

| Approved | Start | Expected End | Renewal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 29/Apr/2026 | 25/May/2022 | 31/Dec/2028 | 31/Dec/2028 |

Course Structure:

# September (Full-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7AT016 | Design within Historic Environments | 40 | SEM2 | Core |
| 7AT015 | Urban Design Theory and Practice | 40 | SEM1 | Core |
| 7AT012 | Emerging Technology | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 7ET022 | Research Methods and Professional Skills | 20 | SEM2 | Core |

# September (Part-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7AT012 | Emerging Technology | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 7AT015 | Urban Design Theory and Practice | 40 | SEM1 | Core |
| 7ET022 | Research Methods and Professional Skills | 20 | SEM2 | Core |

# September (Full-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7AT013 | Architectural Theory Thesis | 40 | SEM1 | Core |
| 7AT017 | The Architectural Profession in Society | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 7AT014 | Design Thesis | 60 | SEM2 | Core |

## September (Part-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7AT016 | Design within Historic Environments | 40 | SEM2 | Core |
| 7AT013 | Architectural Theory Thesis | 40 | SEM1 | Core |

## September (Part-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7AT014 | Design Thesis | 60 | SEM2 | Core |
| 7AT017 | The Architectural Profession in Society | 20 | SEM1 | Core |

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Regulations Exemption:

Section 1.3.1 - Exemption to exceed normal module credits within the standard University Framework allowing for the use of two 30 credit modules.

Section 3.4.2 - Exemption to extend the minimum period of registration to two years, with a maximum four year duration, in full-time mode of study.

Section 3.4.2 - Exemption to extend the minimum period of registration to three years, with a maximum six year duration, in part-time mode of study.

Section 5.1.1 - Exemption to exceed the standard credit requirements for a Master's Degree, increasing to a minimum of 240 credits, in accordance with the standards of the Professional Body (Royal Institute of British Architects/Architects Registration Board).

Section 5.6.1 - Exemption to increase the number of credits used in the calculation of merit and distinction award classifications from 120 credits to 180 credits (from a total of 240 credits) with the inclusion of 7AT014 (Design Thesis) as the designated project module of 60 credits.

APPROVED (by Chair's Action on 26/6/2020).

### Reference Points:

Quality Code - Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards. Including :

Qualifications Frameworks

Characteristics Statements

Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

Quality Code - Part B: Assuring and Enhancing Academic Quality

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act (2010)

## Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

| Learning Outcomes | Modules |
|---|---|
| **PGCERT01** Demonstrate understanding of the context of emerging digital and physical engineering and virtual technologies on the design and on-site delivery of new and existing built structures. | |
| **PGCERT02** Be able to demonstrate the acquisition and application of brief and context analysis with sufficient volumetric and spatial understanding to synthesise a design for a basic building within an existing urban context. | |
| **PGDIP01** Demonstrate understanding of the context of emerging digital and physical engineering and virtual technologies on the design and on-site delivery of new and existing built structures. | |
| **PGDIP02** Be able to demonstrate the acquisition and application of brief and context analysis with sufficient volumetric and spatial understanding to synthesise a design for a basic building within an existing urban context. | |
| **PGDIP03** Evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, appraise and explain design proposals within a cultural important or historical context. Demonstrate critical evaluation of materials, processes and techniques that apply to architectural designs and building construction, and to integrate these into practical design proposals suitable for sensitive and environmental regenerative habitats. | |
| **PGDIP04** Understand the context of the architect’s role in the process of researching and understanding the need for public consultation and lived experience when collecting information relevant to the experience of the end-user of existing and proposed architectural designs. | |

| Learning Outcomes | Modules |
| --- | --- |
| **MA01** (180 credits) - Demonstrate understanding of the context of emerging digital and physical engineering and virtual technologies on the design and on-site delivery of new and existing built structures. MA02 - (180 credits) - Be able to demonstrate the acquisition and application of brief and context analysis with sufficient volumetric and spatial understanding to synthesise a design for a basic building within an existing urban context. MA03 - (180 credits) - Evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, appraise and explain design proposals within a cultural important or historical context. Demonstrate critical evaluation of materials, processes and techniques that apply to architectural designs and building construction, and to integrate these into practical design proposals suitable for sensitive and environmental regenerative habitats. MA04 - (180 credits) - Demonstrate and apply an understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design and how this can be applied through the architect’s role in the process of designing for lived experiences relevant to the experience of the end-user of existing and proposed architectural designs. MA05 - (180 credits) - Understand the context of the architect’s role in the process of procurement and building production and under legislation, acquire problem solving skills, professional judgement, and ability to take the initiative and make appropriate decisions in complex and unpredictable circumstances; and to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required to prepare for qualification as an Architect. | |

| Learning Outcomes | Modules |
| --- | --- |
| **MA02** (240 credits) - Demonstrate understanding of the context of emerging digital and physical engineering and virtual technologies on the design and on-site delivery of new and existing built structures. MA02 - (240 credits) - Be able to demonstrate the acquisition and application of brief and context analysis with sufficient volumetric and spatial understanding to synthesise a design for a basic building within an existing urban context. MA03 - (240 credits) - Evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, appraise and explain design proposals within a cultural important or historical context. Demonstrate critical evaluation of materials, processes and techniques that apply to architectural designs and building construction, and to integrate these into practical design proposals suitable for sensitive and environmental regenerative habitats. MA04 - (240 credits) - Demonstrate and apply an understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design and how this can be applied through the architect’s role in the process of designing for lived experiences relevant to the experience of the end-user of existing and proposed architectural designs. MA05 - (240 credits) - Understand the context of the architect’s role in the process of procurement and building production and under legislation, acquire problem solving skills, professional judgement, and ability to take the initiative and make appropriate decisions in complex and unpredictable circumstances; and to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required to prepare for qualification as an Architect. MA06 - (240 credits) - Synthesize a variety of existing and designed visual and written source material to generate complex design proposals showing understanding of current architectural issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and to test new hypotheses and speculations sufficient to allow a distinct applied philosophy of architectural design principles to have a positive impact on the regeneration of the existing built environment and sustainable new, urban design based, and historically, environmentally and culturally sensitive sites. | |

## Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

Year 1:

Semester 1

During this period 2/3rds of your time will be occupied with one your 1st design module Urban Design Theory and Practice, the remaining time in the 1st semester is spent on increasing your understanding of emerging technology.

Semester 2

Is again led by a design module: Design within Historic Environments, whilst you undertake the remainder of the time on our Research Methods iteration, where you explore material relevant to your research interests such that you produce a research proposal ready for Year 2.

Year 2:

Semester 1

This comprises the Theory Thesis module where students are expected to show breadth and depth of understanding in an aspect of architectural philosophy central to their future direction.  The previous and if they have so proposed, primary research. and parallel to this there is a 20 credit The Architectural Profession in Society module which explores the latest developments in the construction Industry.

Semester 2

This comprises a 60 credit Design Thesis. This final project will see you applying knowledge gained to date in the creation and presentation of a large integrated design project based on a brief selected by you (and approved by the team).

Note on feedback (and feed-forward):

All Design studios will be subject to formative intermediate reviews during which students are required to present the work to a panel of tutors and peers. The students can reflect on the formal feedback given and update their portfolios for final summative review at the end of the modules.

General:

Visits to exhibitions, tours of cities (at home and abroad) and field trips may be arranged to supplement your acquisition of knowledge and understanding of architectural design, theory and philosophy. At the end of the first academic year there will be a plenary briefing session on the content of Year 2, so that you may use the summer break for preparatory experience and reading.

## Assessment Methods/Assessments:

## Further Information for Student:

General University Support:

University libraries are the key source of academic information for students. Libraries provide physical library resources (books, journal, DVDs, etc.) and offer a range of study areas to allow students to study in the environment that suit them best: Social areas, quiet and silent areas. Libraries also provide access to wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, eJournals and subject databases.

Libraries also provide students with academic skills support via the Skills for Learning programme. Students on campus can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help on a range of skills such as academic writing and referencing. Students can access a range of on-line skills material at; www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills

The University Student Support website offers advice on a variety of matters (careers, counselling, Students' Union advice, etc.). Students can also access these services by booking appointment with the SU, careers, counselling services, etc.

Course Specific Support:

The team will be arranging a serious of visits by RIBA practices and chartered Architects to expose you to the wider Architectural community.

## Currency:

## Personalisation Opportunities:

## Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

In encouraging critical appraisal this course encourages active graduates to seek informed routes into paths that they understand and desire. The MArch title, 240 credit award and the PSRB ratified course

ensure that industry recognise the value of our graduates. The general criteria that the PSRB prescribe (ARB), and the mapped learning outcomes ensure graduate attributes that ensure graduates will have the necessary transferable skills to gain employment within the profession and within far wider roles with construction. Career development skills within the professionalism module provide the knowledge required to seek and succeed in gaining employment.  Staff CPD and professional industry relationships ensure there are opportunities for students to engage with professionals in their subject via the use of guest lectures and visiting lecturers as part of teaching, tutorials and formative presentations.

Seeking additional validation from the RIBA is the next stage in further improving employability for graduates, as this label still carries weight domestically as well as internationally.