Programme Specification

Master of Architecture (full-time) PFTZMARCHXHM

For students entering in 2020/21

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	Master of Architecture (full-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	Prescription to be sought from the Architects Registration Board (ARB) and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Students must achieve 2:2 or above on a Part 1 ARB/RIBA validated award in order to be considered for the course
Programme Start Dates	September 2020

Programme information and content
The Master of Architecture (MArch) is the second stage of the 3 stages (Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3) to become a qualified Architect in the UK. The programme offers a collaborative model of education which focuses on design as a research practice that critically engages with places and communities. It operates in a rigorous and dynamic research-driven and project-based learning environment, providing a platform for the exploration of diverse modes of architectural production, communication and forms of practice, preparing graduates able to respond to societal, environmental and technological challenges and to explore professional opportunities.   The curriculum builds on expertise from architecture, urban planning, social sciences, art and other related disciplines, encouraging and facilitating the interdisciplinary nature of design as well as creating synergies with other master courses across UoR. Students develop and apply creative, research, technical and professional skills and knowledge in a series of architectural design 'research units', which define the unique character of the MArch programme. The research units are based on collaboration between tutors, students and external partners (practitioners, policymakers, industry partners, local institutions, stakeholders and communities) and are supported and enriched by taught courses, specialised lectures, seminars and workshops (both compulsory and optional). The design curriculum builds thematically on existing research and expertise within active research groups at UoR, providing an environment of applied research and debate.   The content of the programme is organised under 4 main curricular areas: 1. Architectural Design; 2. Research Methods; 3. Architectural Technologies; 4. Professional Skills. It comprises eight core modules (220 credits) and a series of optional modules (20 credits) delivered across UoR to provide the students with some options in relevant associated built environments subject specialisms as well as fostering cross-disciplinary exchanges.

The programme has a global outlook using research themes, projects sites, case studies and practices from across the world, applied and taught with a UK professional context . In addition to key professional skills, the MArch Programme provides a strong foundation in research methods to prepare students to join PhD programmes in both traditional and practice modes in Architecture and related disciplines as well as to join research-led practices.

Module information

The two-year programme comprises of 240 credits. Each year comprises 120 credits allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed below.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AAMAD1	Architectural Design 1	20	M
AAMAD2	Architectural Design 2	40	M
AAMAT	Architectural Technologies	20	M
AAMPS1	Professional Skills 1	10	M
AAMRM1	Research Methods 1	10	M

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules

Year 2 modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AAMAD3	Architectural Design 3- Thesis Design	60	M
AAMPS2	Professional Skills 2	20	M
AAMRM2	Research Methods 2	40	M

The curriculum has been designed to provide students with the required key skills set, addressing the ARB (Architects Registration Board) /RIBA (The Royal Institute of British Architects) criteria. The criteria mapping against these criteria for each module is indicated in the relevant module description.

As a requirement for prescription and validation with the ARB and the RIBA- all compulsory modules must be passed to demonstrate the professional validation criteria are met.

Any modules with more than one element of assessment will require a pass in each element to ensure compliance with the criteria required by professional bodies (ARB/RIBA).

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

Additional costs of the programme

The additional costs for the programme are around £650 per year for essential text books, printing, drawing and model making materials. Required and recommended textbooks may

often be available second-hand at lower costs, and some copies are usually available in the University Library.

Travel costs of the required field trips will be covered. There might be additional costs for trips which are optional.

There is access to computers with specialist software, however students may also wish to buy their own computers.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2019.

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure students are able to take the optional modules chosen this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

You will be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of the MArch Programme. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University and upon agreement with the Research Unit leader.

Study abroad opportunities

You will be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of the MArch Programme. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University and upon agreement with the Research Unit leader. This will be using the established Erasmus exchange programme.

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, project work, workshops, and on- and off- campus field work and visits.

Assessment takes a variety of formats; tutorials are assessed by submission of written work prior to the date of the tutorial meeting; project work and workshops are primarily assessed via portfolio and carrying out oral presentations.

Delivery will be full-time, primarily on campus, enabling students to access the full range of University and School facilities and services. Total study hours for the programme will be 2400 hours (each year 1200 hours), which includes scheduled sessions and activities as well as guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount

guided independent study hours which a student is normally expected to undertake for each module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

The proposal is that the Master of Architecture course will be prescribed for the start of the course September 2020 with the Architects Registration Board. Validation of the course with the RIBA can only happen once we have one cohort complete the course. We will be applying to the RIBA to be considered as a candidate course as soon as possible.

This course would be the second stage (Part 2) towards qualification as an architect in the UK.

After this course a student is required to complete a period of professional experience as well as Professional Studies (Part 3) and the related examination, to be eligible to achieve statutory registered status as a UK architect (ARB) and be eligible for Chartered Membership of the RIBA.

The assessment of students' work, progression through the Programme as well as degree classification are governed by the University's Student Regulations.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of portfolio and coursework. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Modular progression requirements

In order to progress to the second year students are required to:

  i.   Achieve a mark of at least 50% in each individual compulsory module.
  ii.   It is a requirement of the professional bodies that all compulsory modules on this course must achieve a minimum pass mark in all components of core modules

AAM AD1, AAM AD2, AAM ARM1, AAM AT, AAM PS1.

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To qualify for Distinction, students must

  i.   gain an overall average of 70 or more over 240 credits; and
  ii.   a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and/ or the major final thesis design;
  iii. Achieve a mark of at least 50% in each individual compulsory module.

To qualify for Merit, students must

  i.   gain an overall average of 60 or more over 240 credits; and
  ii.   a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and/ or the major final thesis design;
  iii. Achieve a mark of at least 50% in each individual compulsory module.

To qualify for Passed, students must

  i.   gain an overall average of 50 or more over 240 credits; and
  ii.   a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and/ or the major final thesis design;
  iii. Achieve a mark of at least 50% in each individual compulsory module.

In addition, for all classifications above, students must obtain a mark of at least 50% in all compulsory modules.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for Distinction, students must

  i.   gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
  ii.   In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and

iii.   students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Merit, students must

i.   gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
ii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
iii.   students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Passed, students must

i.   gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
ii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
iii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate, students must

i.   gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
ii.   the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Master of Architecture (full-time) for students entering in session 2020/21
15 April 2020